

is usually a week behind us, this Cherry is in full bloom and, so too, is it across the Parkway from the Arboretum. While the Cherry blossoms have remained virtually at a standstill during the past two weeks the buds on the Lilac bushes have grown considerably and there is great promise of a fine crop of flowers. After a careful survey it is comforting to note that although the first flowers of spring have had a rude awakening and suffered heavily for their haste no material damage has been done to those which had not progressed beyond the bud stage. If from now on normally decent weather prevails, there will yet be a rich harvest of spring flowers.

In the Orient flowering Cherries in variety are a feature of wayside thickets and woodlands, and are among the most pleasing features of early spring. Not only in Japan are flowering Cherries a conspicuous feature of the forest flora, but in Korea and the temperate parts of China also. Japan has so largely supplied us with Cherry trees that we are apt to forget that they also grow in the neighboring countries. As a matter of fact, the first Oriental Cherry to be grown in western gardens was introduced from Canton, China. This was in 1819 and it was named *Prunus pseudocerasus*. In 1882 a second species, afterwards named *P. serrulata*, was also sent to England from Canton. The first-named has single flowers and is the common, edible Cherry of China. Unfortunately, it grows in warm or moderately warm districts and has not proved hardy except in very favored locations. The early importations quickly disappeared from gardens and subsequent introductions, except a notable example in the Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, England, have succumbed to the western climate. The cultivation of this species in Massachusetts is out of the question but it is now growing at Chico and elsewhere in California. The second plant (*P. serrulata*) has double white flowers and this has persisted in cultivation down to the present time, although it never appears to have become common. Soon after 1850 flowering Cherries from Japan began to reach Europe and, in the early sixties, this country and they quickly superseded the Chinese sorts. It must be confessed, however, that this was due to frequent importations rather than to the successful cultivation of these trees. Today, most of the Oriental flowering Cherries in cultivation in this country are of Japanese origin. One or two of the species, however, are widespread in the Far East and these together with species recently discovered in central China are now gradually becoming known to western gardens. On the whole, few, if any, of the Chinese species promise to rival in beauty their Japanese brethren.

Chinese Cherries. *Prunus cyclamina* is a tree from 20 to 35 feet tall with a moderately thick trunk and a spreading crown of slender branches, common in thickets and in thin Oak woods on the mountains of Hupeh, central China. The deep pink flowers, each about an inch in diameter, are produced in great abundance in clusters on the naked shoots. The sepals are strongly reflexed, while the yellow-anthered stamens are prominently thrust forward. The unfolding leaves are bronze-green and appear after or at the same time as



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1929. "In the Orient." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(2), 6–6.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322012>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/217000>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322012>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/322012>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.