

**Spring** is late this year but a goodly number of plants are beginning to put forth their blossoms. Alongside the driveways the Yellow-root (*Zanthorrhiza apiifolia*) is a cloud of lurid purple and the low-growing, fragrant Sumach (*Rhus canadensis*) is laden with greenish yellow blossoms. These are two most useful plants for roadside and border planting, making excellent groundcovers and requiring very little attention. The single-flowered Japanese Cherries, the Chinese Almond, the Pears and the early Crabapples are making a show in different parts of the Arboretum and already the flower buds are visible on the Lilacs and many other plants.

**Viburnum alnifolium**, the Moosewood or Hobblebush, is a lovely native species. Unfortunately, it does not take readily to cultivation and it is doubtful if nursery grown plants can be obtained in the country. In flower, foliage and in fruit it is splendid and well worth the extra patience required to get it established. Found naturally in cool, even wet, places in rich woods, it will when established do equally well on dry banks. It is the first of its tribe to blossom and one of the very best.

**Prinsepia sinensis**. This curious member of the Rose family is now in full blossom in the Shrub Garden. This plant is about 10 feet tall and 15 feet through; the arching spreading branches touch the ground and form a rounded, fountain-like mass. The leaves, narrow and suggestive of those of the Peach, partially hide the pale yellow blossoms, which are borne in fascicles in the leaf axils. The flowers have a pleasant odor reminiscent of Almonds and bees appear to find them extremely attractive. A native of Manchuria, it is an extremely hardy plant and it has never suffered winter injury in the Arboretum, though occasionally the young foliage gets nipped by spring frosts. *Prinsepia* bears a small plum-like fruit which contains a flattened pitted stone but, unfortunately, it fruits sparingly. No other means of propagation of the plant has been found so for a long time it must remain a scarce plant. Of less value as an ornamental is the white-flowered *P. uniflora* native of northwestern China, which opens its blossoms after those of *P. sinensis* have fallen. Both plants grow naturally in gravelly soil and have long, whip-like roots and in consequence do not transplant readily.

**The Asiatic Crabapples**, both in the collection at the foot of Peters Hill and on the left side entering by Forest Hills Gate, promise to be unusually fine this year. The Manchurian Crabapple (*Malus baccata mandshurica*) is first to blossom, a large tree at the foot of the Crataegus collection on Peters Hill being now sheeted in white. The expanding buds of this Crabapple appear brownish when seen from the near distance but the flowers when open are the purest white; they are relatively large and delightfully fragrant. This native of Korea, Manchuria and other cold parts of northeastern Asia grows to a large size, approaching the dimensions of the common Apple. Its fruits are scarlet to crimson and a little larger than that of a garden pea. It is one of the most beautiful of the larger Crabapple trees and particularly worthy of growing on account of its early flowering qualities.



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Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1930. "Prinsepia sinensis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 4(4), 14-14.

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