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Spring, which made a furtive effort in mid-March, is now here in a hurry. In fact, the temperature today (April 20) is more that of summer than of Spring. On March 8 the Chinese Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis mollis*) and the Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) were in flower; on the tenth the Japanese Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis japonica*) opened its blossoms; on the twelfth pretty *Erica carnea* was crowded with pink bells; on the fifteenth *Ribes cereum* was in open leaf and blossoms on the north China Peach (*Prunus Davidiana*) were showing color. There was every prospect of a very early season but the weather changed and Spring was deferred another month.

Winter effects. The winter has seemed unusually long, snow fell the first week in December and lay on the ground until March. During December there were several heavy falls of snow but the other winter months were marked by only moderate snowfalls. No extremely low temperatures were recorded in the Arboretum and frost did not penetrate any great depth into the ground. So far as the soil itself fared it is many years since the ground was workable so early. Although long, the winter has been decidedly mild and the trees and shrubs in the Arboretum have suffered little or no damage. A few Carolina Hemlocks and the Japanese Black Pine (*Pinus Thunbergii*) got scorched. The Cedars of Lebanon on Bussey Hill, the Rhododendrons, Kalmias and other broad-leaved evergreens came through in splendid condition. The Azaleas, Crabapples, Cherries and other deciduous trees and shrubs give promise of plenteous blossom. There will, however, be no Lilac display this year. Owing to impoverished conditions it has been necessary to prune the Lilac bushes severely and liberally fertilize the soil. By this treatment and allowing them a year in which to recuperate there should be a fine display in 1928. For the public's sake it is a pity that the Lilacs had to be given a year's grace but there is a limit to the endurance of even the good natured Lilac.

Prunus Davidiana. The forcing effects of the warm weather in early March threatened danger to early flowering plants but ap-

parently no real harm was done. Both the white and pink forms of *Prunus Davidiana* opened their blossoms early in April only to be destroyed by frost. This tree is too precocious for these latitudes. It rarely happens that a Spring passes without its flowers being partially or wholly destroyed. Where the climate is less changeable it should be a valuable early flowering tree. In the Middle West as a stock on which to graft Peaches it is well appreciated but it ought to be grown widely as an ornamental.

Apricots. For the climate of Massachusetts the Manchurian Apricot (*Prunus mandshurica*) is likely to prove a first-class Spring flowering tree. During the last week-end a tree on the right hand side of Meadow Road, on the edge of Robina group, has been a beautiful picture. About 20 feet tall, with a flattened, irregular crown spreading full 25 feet, every branch of the tree was studded with deep pink flower buds which as they opened became pale colored. We noticed that bees were particularly busy and on Sunday last the tree was alive with them. This Apricot is native of Korea and Manchuria, where it grows some 30 feet tall and has a short massive trunk covered with thick corky bark which shows red beneath the surface. It has been growing in the Arnold Arboretum since 1906 but this year has flowered much more profusely than ever before. At the moment the Siberian Apricot (*Prunus sibirica*) is a mass of white and, so too, is a Japanese form of the Common Apricot (*P. armeniaca*) known as *mikado*. These three Apricots are well worth the attention of tree-lovers and nurserymen. They are suited for planting on lawns and near houses; also they would be valuable for town gardens and small parks in the heart of cities.

Forsythias. The bank of Forsythias by the Lilac collection is now strung with yellow bells and in a day or two will be a blaze of rich yellow. These Oriental shrubs are everywhere great favorites but it is regrettable that their care, especially the matter of pruning, is so little understood. As one sees them in gardens generally they are shorn of beauty through ignorant pruning. If people would only cut them immediately after their flowering is passed they would have graceful bushes hugging the ground instead of the broom-like masses one so frequently sees. It cannot be too often stated that all shrubs which flower on the past season's growth should be pruned immediately after flowering and thus be given a long season for making and ripening new flowering wood. All the Forsythias are good. The best is, undoubtedly, *F. intermedia spectabilis*, which has larger and richer yellow blossoms than the others. Massachusetts is about the northern limit of the Chinese Forsythias and their hybrids. The Korean species (*F. ovata*) with small pale yellow flowers is much the hardiest and although the flowers are smaller and the color not so deep it promises to be a valuable shrub for northern New England and even the valley of the St. Lawrence. It is native of the Diamond Mountains in north-central Korea and was introduced into the Arnold Arboretum by Wilson in 1917. As a screen for draping walls and large boulders the old *F. suspensa* with its long, whip-like branches is still the best.



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