
MORTON ARBORETUM

JOY MORTON, Founder

BULLETIN

OF

POPULAR INFORMATION

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With the spring planting brought to a close, a new growing season has been entered which will bring many new observations to be reported on in these papers. We open the new season with this first bulletin of the year by giving an account of happenings and developments in the Arboretum during the eventful months which lie between the publication of the last bulletin of last year and the present. The fall planting, the long winter months with their many chances for damage to recently transplanted plants, and the spring planting which usually brings the development of the Arboretum a considerable step forward, have to be reported on.

REPORT ON WINTER-DAMAGE

Our first bulletin in spring usually has had to open with the enumeration of all kinds of winter-damage which had occurred to our plants. We are happy to state that there is hardly any winter-damage to be reported this year. The winter was comparatively mild, and the long, cool spring with its abundance of moisture gave everything a wonderful start. The only loss which is worth mentioning is that of the last of the plants of 28 varieties of Japanese Cherries received 2 years ago through the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. Most of these Cherries died during the first winter, the last of the survivors succumbed this winter. This report may sound very discouraging as far as the future of Japanese Cherries in this part of the country is concerned, but I am far from considering the case to be hopeless. The wonderful hardiness of the "Sargent-Cherry"—*Prunus serrulata sachalinensis*—to which is traced the origin of several of the finest of the flowering Japanese Cherries, suggests this cherry as the most promising grafting stock for Japanese Cherries here in our region. *Prunus Lannesiana*, used as stock by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, as well as *P. avium*—the Mazzard Cherry,—mostly used by nurserymen, are both rather tender with us, which circumstance will largely account for our failure in

establishing the Japanese Cherries. With a few hundred seedlings of the Sargent-Cherry now being raised in our nursery our hopes are growing for a final success with the Japanese Cherries.

Sciadopitys verticillata, the Japanese Umbrella-Pine, of which 2 plants were again set out a year ago in spring in a naturally sheltered place, survived this winter without the slightest injury and seem to be well on the way, now, to get safely established.

A few plants of *Cryptomeria japonica* which we received as tiny seedlings 2 years ago from the Botanical Garden of Berlin, Germany, and which had been kept in the frame up to this time, were planted out this spring not far from the *Sciadopitys*. The *Cryptomeria* usually is a good deal more tender though, and our hopes are small to be successful in establishing it.

REPORT ON NEW PLANTINGS

This leads to the report on plantings carried out during the last 2 planting seasons.

The plants set out in the Arboretum for testing are, as stated in previous publications, arranged in various groups so that it may be convenient to study and compare them. These groups are, of course, not yet complete; indeed, they never will be complete. There will always be some varieties left, propagating material of which can be obtained only occasionally and which have to be added by and by. Up to the present our groups had merely been started with such varieties as could be obtained comparatively easy. It is this year for the first time that a large amount of plants of our own raising and a great many plants which were imported from abroad were added to our groups, including many rare and unusual plants which can not be bought.

The following additions were made to the groups which represent the various genera of woody plants:

Plants of 21 varieties were added to the genus *Aesculus* (Horsechestnut).

Plants of 4 varieties were added to the genus *Alnus* (Alder).

Plants of 9 varieties were added to the genus *Amelanchier* (Juneberry).

Plants of 11 varieties were added to the genera *Caragana* and *Colutea*.

Plants of 8 varieties were added to the genus *Corylus* (Hazelnut).

Plants of 8 varieties were added to the genus *Cotoneaster*.

Plants of 2 varieties were added to the genus *Crataegomispilus*.

Plants of 141 varieties were added to the genus *Crataegus* (Hawthorne).

Plants of 10 varieties were added to the genus *Evonymus* (Spindle-tree).

Plants of 31 varieties were added to the genus *Lonicera* (Honeysuckle).

Plants of 36 varieties were added to the genus *Malus* (Apples).



Lonicera tenuipes Nakai (*L. gracilipes glandulosa* Maxim). One of the earliest Honeysuckles to bloom. It opened its first flowers this year on April 2 and was in full bloom on the 15th of April when this picture was taken. The flowers are dull pink and appear in great abundance with or almost before the leaves, as the picture shows very clearly. Fresh green *Prinsepia sinensis* and yellow flowering *Forsythia ovata* grouped together with this Honeysuckle will give a very pleasing color contrast.

Plants of 15 varieties were added to the genus *Philadelphus* (Mock-Orange).

Plants of 8 varieties were added to the genus *Potentilla* (Cinquefoil).

Plants of 59 varieties were added to the genus *Prunus* (Cherry and Plum).

Plants of 15 varieties were added to the genus *Pyrus* (Pear).

Plants of 11 varieties were added to the genus *Ribes* (Currant and Gooseberry).

Plants of 27 varieties were added to the genus *Rosa* (Rose).

Plants of 31 varieties were added to the genus *Salix* (Willow).

Plants of 8 varieties were added to the genus *Sambucus* (Elder).

Plants of 2 varieties were added to the genus *Sorbaronia*.

Plants of 24 varieties were added to the genus *Sorbus* (Mountain-Ash).

Plants of 25 varieties were added to the genus *Spiraea*.

Plants of 3 varieties were added to the genus *Tilia* (Linden).

Plants of 19 varieties were added to the genus *Ulmus* (Elm).

Plants of 8 varieties were added to the genus *Viburnum*.

With very few exceptions these varieties were new to our collections and had not been represented before.

The largest addition which has been made to any one group was made to the Lilac-group, plants of 182 varieties having been added here, which brings the number of varieties now represented in this group to 312. Most of these naturally are small yet, since we have raised them ourselves from cuttings or grafts, but we expect that within 2 or 3 years this Lilac-group will be one of the most prominent features of the Arboretum. The arrangement of the planting which separates the single from the double flowering varieties, while varieties of similar shade of color are next to each other, will be found very convenient for the study and the comparison of the many quite similar varieties which were originated by different breeders. The whole group forms a wide open circle in which the plants are set out in rows so that it is very simple to locate any variety for which one may be looking.

Completing plantings in our geographical groups where plants have been assembled according to the land of their origin and are grouped in a natural way were furthermore carried out. A great many plants were set out particularly in the groups which represent the following countries:

Japan, Central China, Siberia, Balkan and Caucasus.

Here also many rare varieties of plants were added which we have raised ourselves and which are not in the nursery trade.

Larger plots of several hundred plants each were planted of the following trees: *Ailanthus glandulosa*, *Betula lenta*, *Betula lutea*, *Betula nigra*, *Carya laciniata*, *Chamaecyparis pisifera*, *Cladrastis lutea*, *Larix laricina*, *Maclura pomifera*, *Picea koyamai*, *Pinus densiflora*, *Pinus Jeffreyi*, *Populus Maximowiczii*, *Ulmus pumila*.

These, like most of the reforestation tests plots started in previous years, were planted in rows, forming pure groves. They will be left to grow into timber and we expect to be able to judge from their behavior their value for reforestation purposes in this part of the country.

IMPORTATION OF PLANTS

Living plants of many rare varieties were again successfully imported from the following countries: Czechoslovakia, England, France, Germany. Part of these plants were bought from nurseries, some also were received in exchange.

SEED-EXCHANGE

The exchange of seeds and other propagating material is in most cases the only way in which rare and unusual plants can be obtained which are not in the nursery trade. It may be of interest to our friends and readers to learn a little of how this exchange is brought about.

Botanists and Botanical Institutions all over the world are co-operating by conducting an exchange of seeds free of everybody who himself can offer seeds of some worth while plants. Lists of seeds collected during the year either from plants cultivated in the various Botanical Gardens or from native plants of the vicinity are published every year and distributed to all the seed exchanging correspondents who, for their part, only mark in the list the seeds which they wish to receive and return the list.

Since most of the plants cultivated in the Morton Arboretum are too small yet to produce seeds which could have been offered and sent out in exchange, a list was compiled of the plants native to our immediate vicinity—which, by the way, contains the names of close to 500 plants—and the offer made to collect seeds on request. The request for seeds of these native plants has been very great, and Botanical Institutes all over the world seemed to be very happy over the opportunity to obtain seeds of the native plants of this part of the U. S. A., while on the other hand the Morton Arboretum received in exchange during the past 6 months somewhat over 1000 packages of seeds.

The seed exchange which we thus established now includes as many as 212 Botanical Gardens and similar institutions which are distributed over the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China (and Manchuria), Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Esthonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jugoslavia, Lithuania, Holland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland.

THE LIBRARY

The library of the Arboretum also received many valuable additions the most noteworthy of which is, perhaps, a beautiful copy of Lambert's famous work "Genus Pinus." The Arboretum was fortunate enough to obtain this set, which is in perfect condition, from England.