

The South American *pink shower*, an exceedingly handsome tree 50 feet or more in height, which is cultivated in many tropical countries for its beautiful blooms. The abundant racemes of deep-pink flowers, an inch across, are produced in February and March, during which time the tree is deciduous, or partly so. The pinnate leaves and young branches are covered with fine, soft, copper-colored hair. (Adapted from *Rock, The Ornamental Trees of Hawaii, p. 104.*)

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 52401.

54707 and 54708. TRIFOLIUM PRATENSE L. Fabaceæ. Red clover.

From Helsingfors, Finland. Seeds purchased by Leslie A. Davis, American consul. Received February 21, 1922.

54707. *Punga-apila*, from Suomi. From Keskusosuusliike Hankkija, r. I.

54708. *Sydfinskt*, from Centralandelslaget Labor m. b. t.

**54709 to 54725. PRUNUS MUME Sieb. and Zucc. Amygdalaceæ.
Japanese apricot.**

From Okitsu, Shizuokaken, Japan. Budwood presented by Prof. T. Onda, Bureau of Horticulture, Imperial Agricultural Experiment Station. Received February 24, 1922. Quoted notes by Professor Onda.

The "mume," or Japanese apricot, is found throughout the Japanese Empire, where it is both wild and cultivated. In height it ranges from 10 to 25 feet, reaching its maximum development in the northern parts of its native country. Before the leaves appear in the spring the tree is covered with a profusion of attractive blossoms which are white in the wild forms, while in the cultivated varieties the color varies from white to pink, with occasional tinges of green or yellow. The most desirable varieties are those with double flowers and dwarf habit; the latter characteristic is of much importance among the Japanese because of their well-known liking for dwarf trees.

In favorable seasons the "mume" blooms at the beginning of February, and one may see the altars and homes decorated with flowering branches as a symbol of approaching spring. Pilgrimages are made to certain trees which are considered sacred because of associations with divine princes or national heroes, and cuttings from these trees accordingly assume great value in all parts of the land. The tree also plays an important rôle in Japanese literature.

The fruits ripen in June; they are exceedingly sour and are eaten only in the form of pickles. These are consumed in large quantities in Japan, being prepared with the leaves of a mint, *Perilla arguta*, which gives them a reddish color and an aromatic taste. (Adapted from *Revue Horticole, vol. 57, p. 564*, and note under S. P. I. Nos. 9211 to 9216.)

"The 15 'mume' trees at my home in Maryland are among the most admired plants which I have. Since this species is early flowering and perfectly hardy, it should have a great future in this country. If we can propagate it as we are now propagating the Japanese flowering cherries, I believe we can make it quite as popular in America as the latter have become. The fact that the 'mume' blossoms earlier than the cherry, that the tree does not grow quite so large, and that the flowers are fragrant, adapts it particularly for planting in dooryards." (*David Fairchild.*)

54709. "*Beni Kaga*. An early-flowering variety with medium-sized white flowers followed by medium-sized fruits."

54710. "*Beni Sashi*. An early-flowering variety with small white flowers and small red fruits."

54711. "*Bungo*. A late-flowering variety with large light-red flowers and large fruits."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 45878.

54712. "*Hanakami*. A mid-season variety with rather small light-red flowers and medium-sized light-brown fruits."

For previous introduction, see S. P. I. No. 45879.