

May 6, 1929

Mr. Robert Hamilton Tubbs,
111 East Tenth Street,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of May 3rd, *Prunus mira* has proved a disappointment in the Arnold Arboretum, failing for some unknown reason to withstand our winters. At least this is what happened to the original plants. I am trying it again in another place.

What I wrote of the possibilities of this Peach being of value to the hybridist is being tested out by W. F. White, Box 775, Palo Alto, California, who writes me that he has some very interesting hybrids. He belongs to the Bureau of Plant Industry and it might be worth your while getting in touch with him.

As to the *Davidia*, an alkaline soil is not necessary. It is a good natured plant and where it is hardy grows freely in any good garden soil. I would suggest good woodland soil, good turfy loam and leafmold with some sharp sand. The drainage should be good and give it a position sheltered from the strong winds. As showing its soil tolerance, it will interest you to learn that it does splendidly on acid soil at Newport, R. I., and equally well in alkaline soil in Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y.

The Litchi is a tropical fruit and I doubt very much whether even under glass summer heat is sufficient for New Jersey.

However, experiment alone can answer the question. I only know it in one isolated district at Szechuan, except, of course, in southeastern China, which is its real home, especially the region about Canton.

I am glad that you find "China, Mother of Gardens" interesting.

Very truly yours,

S. A. Wilson

Keeper

EHW/KK