

The Plantsman



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 **RHS**
Inspiring everyone to grow

People behind the plants

ERNEST WILSON



Ernest Henry Wilson (1876–1930) is one of the most famous of the group of explorers known by that most dramatic and thrilling name, the 'plant hunters'.

Born in Chipping Campden, Wilson went to work aged 16 as an apprentice gardener at Birmingham Botanical Gardens before moving to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and then taking a position with James Veitch & Sons as Chinese plant collector. For two years he searched for plants in Hubei Province with such a zeal for his work and the country that he earned himself the romantic sobriquet 'Chinese' Wilson.

He returned to China several times and also visited Japan, Taiwan, the Korean peninsula, Australasia, India, South America and East Africa. He wrote widely on plants, gardens and his adventures.

In 1927 he became Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts, USA. He died in Worcester, Massachusetts, alongside his wife, in an automobile accident, aged only 54.

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH



EH Wilson pictured at a fruit and vegetable stall in Japan, c. 1918.

Wilson (centre) pictured on his second visit to Japan when he selected the azaleas known as the Wilson 50. His

Japanese guide, Morita, stands to his right.
Arnold Arboretum Horticulture Library