

LILACS IN THE ROCHESTER PARKS

R.E. Horsey

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LILACS IN THE ROCHESTER PARKS

R. E. Horsey

1938

Note: Mr. Horsey has observed these plants closely for years and has kept careful records of the fine collection in Highland Park, both of the lilac species and the many garden varieties of the Common Lilac, Syringa vulgaris. This data he has kindly allowed us to mimeograph in this leaflet for the benefit of our students at Cornell University. Later we hope Mr. Horsey will add more descriptive material and thus enlarge and increase the usefulness of this garden data. Even in its present form it has distinct garden interest and we are grateful to Mr. Horsey for allowing us to use it.

Please note Mr. Horsey's statement in the Preface that the lilacs were very early in 1938. For twenty years Cornell classes have journeyed to Rochester to see the lilacs in their best condition. The average date of these visits has been May 23rd.

Ralph W. Curtis

P R E F A C E

The following notes were prepared after I was unable to find exact statements on the sequence of lilac bloom in publications.

The first lilac to flower this year was the Purple Early lilac, Syringa oblata Giraldii. This was in good flower on May 2, 1938.

Lilac Mirabeau, a hybrid of this and the common lilac was out on May 3, 1938.

Lutece was very beautiful on June 10, 1938. This was the last of the named forms to bloom.

Latest of all was the Peking Lilac, Syringa Pekinensis, which had several fine panicles in good condition on June 29, 1938.

Therefore it is possible to have two months of lilac bloom if good selection of species and forms are used.

The season at Rochester was early in 1938, from one to two weeks earlier than usual.

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Sequence of Bloom of Lilac Species

From Notes Taken in May and June, 1938

(All species have single flowers)

Very Early

Syringa oblata dilatata

Palest lilac to lavender.

Syringa oblata Giraldii

Purple Early Lilac.

First of all lilacs to flower. In good flower on May 2, 1938.

Color is purple lilac.

Early

Syringa vulgaris

Common Lilac

Wild form from banks of Danube River. Lilac color.

For varieties and forms of this species see the horticultural forms of "French Lilacs."

Early Midseason

Syringa chinensis

Chinese or Rouen Lilac

Purple lilac.

Syringa chinensis alba

White Chinese Lilac

White, first flowers tinged lilac.

Syringa chinensis bicolor

White tinged lilac with purple center.

Syringa chinensis Le Troyes

Pink to lilac in color.

Syringa chinensis President Hayes

Purple red.

Syringa chinensis saugeana

Purple Chinese Lilac

Dark pink to purple red.

Syringa pubescens

Hairy Lilac

Pale lilac in color.

Midseason

Syringa persica laciniata

Feathered Persian Lilac

Pinkish lilac.

Medium-Late

Syringa persica alba

White Persian Lilac

White, tinge of lilac in first blooms.

Syringa velutina

Schneider Lilac

Lilac color.

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Late

<u>Syringa Meyeri</u>	Purple lilac.	Meyer Lilac
<u>Syringa microphylla</u>	White tinged pink. This also flowers in the fall.	Littleleaf Lilac
<u>Syringa Palibiniana</u>	Light lavender.	Palabin Lilac
<u>Syringa Wolfii</u>	Purple lilac tube, petals almost white inside.	Wolf Lilac

Very Late

<u>Syringa Henryi Lutece</u>	Dark lilac. Very beautiful on June 10, 1938. This was the last of the named forms to bloom.	Lutece Lilac
<u>Syringa Josikaea</u>	Violet in color.	Hungarian Lilac
<u>Syringa Josikaea eximia</u>	Reddish rose to dark lilac.	Red Rose Lilac
<u>Syringa Josikaea H. Zabel</u>	Bluish lilac color.	
<u>Syringa Josikaea pallida</u>	Almost white.	Pale Hungarian Lilac
<u>Syringa Josikaea rubra</u>	Lilac with red shading, fades lighter.	Red Hungarian Lilac
<u>Syringa Komarowii</u>	Purple pink, lighter with age.	Komarof Lilac
<u>Syringa Komarowii Sargentiana</u>	Dark lilac to purple, lighter with age.	Sargent Lilac
<u>Syringa Nanceiana</u>	Light mauve lilac.	Floreal Lilac
<u>Syringa reflexa</u>	Reddish lilac, lighter with age.	Nodding Lilac
<u>Syringa Sweginzowii</u>	Light lilac to white.	Sweginzow Lilac
<u>Syringa tomentella</u>	Lilac pink, white center.	Felty Lilac
<u>Syringa Wilsonii</u>	Little if any different from <u>S. tomentella</u> .	Wilson Lilac

The sub-genus *Ligustrina* with small white florets in large panicles, much resembling privet (*Ligustrum*) flowers, is in bloom after or when all other lilacs are passing flower.

It is represented by the following large shrubs or trees.

<u>Syringa amurensis</u>	Manchurian Lilac
" <u>japonica</u>	Japanese Tree Lilac
" <u>pekinensis</u>	Peking Lilac

Had several fine panicles in good condition on June 29, 1938.

The group marked Very Late contains a surprising number of fine flowers forms in good variation of color. It would be worthwhile to group a number of these beautiful shrubs in a separate planting for a late lilac display.

Sequence of Bloom of Horticultural Forms Mostly Syringa vulgaris

Commonly Known as "French Lilacs"

With the desire to make a comparison, all notes that follow were taken the same day and place - May 17, 1938, Highland Park, Rochester, New York.

Very Early

Syringa hyacinthiflora forms. Past flower, May 17, 1938.

Single Lamartine, mauve pink.

Mirabeau, mauve lilac. Earliest of single flowered forms.

Semi-double Claude Bernard, mauve pink.

Double Hyacinthiflora-plena, bluish purple. Earliest of the double flowered.

Syringa vulgaris forms

Single Prof E. Stoekhardt, light blue.

Double Guizot, creamy lilac.

Early

Syringa vulgaris forms. Passing and fading, May 17, 1938.

Single Clara Cochet, light rose, to white.

Macrostachya, light rose.

Philemon, dark purple red.

President Lambeau, lavender lilac.

President Lincoln, wedgewood blue.

Princess Alexandra, white.

Virginalis, white

William C. Barry, pearly lavender.

Double Jean Bart, rosy violet.

Le Printemps, violet rose.

President Grevy, bluish lavender.

Early Midseason

Syringa vulgaris forms. All florets open and starting to fade, May 17, 1938.

Single Alba grandiflora, white.

Calvin C. Laney, lavender violet.

Lilarosa, creamy pink.

Mont Blanc, white,

Prince of Wales, lilac.

Double Belle de Nancy, satiny rose.

Linne, lilac red.

Paul Harriot, rouge-violet.

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Midseason

Syringa vulgaris forms. Full flower except a few buds at tips of panicle, and in good color, May 17, 1938.

- Single Aline Mocqueris, dark red.
 Capitaine Baltet, purple lilac.
 Cavour, slate blue.
 Charles X, lilac red.
 Diderot, claret purple.
 Jacques Cellot, light lilac.
 L'Oncle Tom, dark violet purple.
 Lucie Baltet, rose salmon.
 Marie Legraye, white.
 Monge, dark purple.
 President Roosevelt, reddish purple.
 Reine Elizabeth, white.
 Toussaint L'Overture, dark purple red.
- Double De Saussure, purple red.
 Duc de Massa, purple violet.
 Emil Gentil, cobalt blue.
 Katherine Havemeyer, cobalt blue.
 Miss Ellen Willmott, white.
 Oliver de Serres, azure blue.
 William Robinson, violet mauve.

Medium-Late

Syringa vulgaris forms. About 1/2 to 2/3 of florets open, May 17, 1938.

- Single Mrs. William E. Marshall, purplish crimson, perhaps the darkest colored lilac.
 Volcan, purple.
- Double Edith Cavelle, white.
 Jules Simon, bluish lilac.
 Leon Gambetta, pinkish lilac.
 Mme. Amelia Duprat, violet rose.
 Mme. Casimir Perier, white.
 Mme. Lemoine, white.
 President Carnot, pale lilac eclaire.
 President Falliers, pale lilac pink.

Late

Syringa vulgaris forms. Less than 1/2 open, May 17, 1938.

- Double Banquise, white.
 Siebold, cream.
 Dr. Maillot, lilac.



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