

THE LILACS

at HIGHLAND PARK, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

1912

As many persons are now interested in the lilacs, a brief history of the plant is of interest. The scientific name of the lilac is *syringa*, and in naming any particular species a second name is placed to the right of the word to distinguish what particular *syringa* is meant. The genus *syringa* is composed of about a dozen species of shrubs or shrub-like trees distributed from Southwestern Europe to Central Asia and the Himalayas, to Mongolia, Northern China and Japan.

The common lilac *syringa vulgaris* is a native of the mountainous regions of Central Europe, from Piedmont to Hungary. The many varieties of cultivated lilacs are hybrids of *syringa vulgaris* and of the species from North China, *syringa oblata*. V. Lemoine, of Nancy, France, in Garden and Forest of the year 1889, described the methods by which he obtained many of the popular varieties of lilacs, by hybridizing a variety of the common lilac with *syringa oblata*.

Plants from Wild Lilac.

Seed from the wild lilac, *syringa vulgaris*, were collected for Dr. Charles S. Sargent on the banks of the Danube several years ago, and plants were raised from them in the Arnold Arboretum at Boston. Seedlings from these plants

have been received by the Rochester Park Commission from Dr. Sargent, director of the Arnold Arboretum, and are now in the lilac collection at Highland Park and may be found on the north side of the grass walk near *syringa pubescens*. They are labeled. ●

The earliest to flower in the collection at Highland Park is the North China lilac, *syringa oblata*, with large pale purple fragrant flowers. The broad, thick leaves of this shrub, unlike those of other lilacs, turn to deep bronze red in autumn.

Nearly as early to flower is *syringa hyacinthiflora*, a hybrid between the *syringa oblata* and the common lilac. This hybrid grows to a large size and the small double flowers are very fragrant. It is interesting as one of the early hybrids of the genus.

More beautiful and in every way a more useful garden plant is another hybrid, *syringa chinensis*, raised many years ago in France. The name is unfortunate for its parents are *syringa vulgaris*, now known to be a native of the Balkan Peninsula, and Persian lilac. The flowers of this hybrid are produced in long clusters, which are so heavy that they become semi-pendant on the slender branches. There are varieties with rose-colored and pale, nearly white, flowers.

Species of Delicate Perfume.

Another Chinese species is *syringa pubescens*. This has small leaves and small, long-tubed, pale purple flowers

which are produced profusely in small clusters. The value of this plant is the delicate perfume of the flowers. In Highland Park this species may be found just south of the grass walk a few feet west of the syringa oblata and almost fifty feet west of the beautiful variety, Aline Macquery.

Syringa villosa is an inhabitant of Northern China and is a large shapely shrub with good foliage and pale pink or nearly white flowers in large, compact, erect clusters which are produced in great profusion. The odor of the flowers is disagreeable.

The Hungarian lilac, syringa Josikaea, a large flowering species is a tall shrub with loose unattractive habit, small leaves and long, slender, open clusters of small purple flowers, and is perhaps the least attractive of all the lilacs. The crossing, however, of these two species, have given rise to a race of lilacs which prolongs the season of flowering of the two lilacs for nearly two weeks. This new race is syringa Henryi, in honor of Monsieur L. Henry, at one time gardener at Jardin des Plantes in Paris, who made these hybrids.

Rose Colored Race.

The best known of these is Lutece, so-called because it originated in Paris. This is a compact, fast-growing, large shrub with foliage resembling that of syringa villosa, and large clusters of rose-colored purple flowers, and is one of the handsome and desirable shrubs

of recent introduction. Lilac Lutece is near the Persian walnut tree, and not far from the boulder at Rhododendron walk.

There is a group of lilacs that blooms even later than this hybrid. They are not true lilacs, however, but belong to the section *Ligustrina* of the genus which differs from the true lilac in the short tube of the corolla from which the stamens protrude. There are three species of this group, all natives of Northeastern Asia. They are shrubs or sometimes trees, and they all produce white, bad-smelling flowers in large clusters.

The first to flower, *Syringa Amurensis*, is a native of Eastern Siberia, as its name indicates. It is a small tree, with flat, spreading or slightly drooping clusters of white flowers. The second species to flower is *Syringa pekinensis*, a native of Northern China, and is a shrub rather than a tree, although it sometimes reaches a height of thirty feet, with numerous stout stems more or less pendant at the ends and covered with bark peeling off in thin layers like that of some birch tree. The long narrow leaves hang gracefully, and the half-drooping flower-clusters, which are flat and unsymmetrical, are smaller than those of the other species, but are produced in great quantities.

Tree Lilac from Japan.

Syringa japonica, a native of the forests of Northern Japan, is the last of the tree lilacs to flower and is really a

tree often thirty or forty feet high, with a tall stout trunk, covered with lustrous bark like that of a cherry tree, and a round-topped head. The leaves are large, thick, and dark green, and the flowers are produced in large, erect, symmetrical clusters. Like the other species of this group, *syringa japonica* loses its leaves early in the autumn without change of color.

Syringa amurensis and *syringa peckinensis* have not become common in gardens, but *syringa japonica* has been quite generally planted in those of the Eastern states. It is of interest that this remarkable tree was first sent to America and thence to Europe by a citizen of Massachusetts, the late William S. Clark, the first president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College and later the first president of the Agricultural College at Sapporo, Japan.

In December, 1876, a small collection of seeds gathered in the neighborhood of Sapporo, were received at the Arnold Arboretum from Colonel Clark and among them were seeds of this lilac. The seedlings raised from this seed and their descendants are the native plants now cultivated in the United States and Europe.

Best Known Varieties.

The best early-flowering lilacs are nearly all varieties of the common lilac (*syringa vulgaris*). There are two species from China that flower about one week ahead of the *syringa vulgaris* forms, namely, *syringa oblata* and *syringa gir-*

aldi. *Syringa giraldi* is not the correct name, as it has lately been discovered that the plant under that name is an unnamed species from China. *Syringa giraldi* is in good flower near the large boulder in the Rhododendron walk.

Among the varieties of *syringa vulgaris*, the best single whites are Princess Alexandra, Marie Legraye, Frau Dammann and Madame Moser; single deep purple red to reddish, Aline Macquery, Congo. Negra, Ludwig Spath Philomen and Rubra Insignis; single rosy lilac to creamy pink, Lilarosa. Dr. Von Regal, Lovaniensis, Jacques Callot, Furst Lichtenstein and Macrostachia; single blue to bluish lavender Colmariensis, and Coerulea Superba; double white, Madame Lemoine, Madame Casimir Perier, Miss Ellen Wilmott, Obelisque and Rabelais; double purple red to reddish. Charles Joly, Latour d'Auvergne, Marechal de Bassompierre, Colbert and Souvenir de L. Thibaud; double rosy lilac to creamy pink, Madame Jules Finger, Rosea Grandiflora, Dr. Maillot and Louis Henry; double blue to bluish lavender, President Grevy, Alphonse Lavelle, Lamarek Monument, Carnot, Michael Buckner and Doyen Keteleer.

The Rouen lilac, *syringa chinensis* in its lilac, reddish and white form, should be in all collections. The list of forty-one species and varieties of lilacs alone represent a selection from a collection of two hundred and fifty species and varieties.

MAY, 1912.

Species and Varieties of Lilacs now
growing in Highland Park.

- Syringa affinis.
" Amurensis.
" chinensis.
" " alba.
" " bicolor.
" duplex.
" La Lorraine.
" le progress.
" Pres. Hayes.
" " rubra.
" " Langeana.
" emodi.
" " variegata.
" giraldi.
" japonica.
" josikaea.
" " eacinia.
" oblata.
" pekinensis.
" persica.
" " alba.
" " laciniata.
" pinnatifolia.
" pubescens.
" villosa.
" " lutece.

- Syringa vulgaris linnaeus (Caucasus
and Asia Minor).
“ vulgaris linnaeus (seedlings
from banks of the Danube).
“ vulgaris linnaeus Abel Car-
riere.
“ vulgaris alba.
“ “ “ grandiflora.
“ “ Albert the Good.
“ “ Alex. Humboldt.
“ “ Aline Macquery.
“ “ Alphonse Lavallo.
“ “ Amethyst.
“ “ amoena.
“ “ Arthur Wm. Paul.
“ “ aurea.
“ “ azurea plena.
“ “ Banquise.
“ “ Belle de Nancy.
“ “ Beranger.
“ “ Bleautre.
“ “ Caroli No. 1.
“ “ “ No. 2.
“ “ cavour.
“ “ charlemborg.
“ “ Charles Battet.
“ “ Charles Joly.
“ “ Charles Sargent.
“ “ Charles X.
“ “ Christopher Colum-
bus.
“ “ Clara Cochet.

Syringa vulgaris	Claude Lemoine.
"	coerulea superba.
"	colbert.
"	colmariensis.
"	Comte Adrien de Montebello
"	Comte de Kerchove.
"	Comtesse Horace de Choiseul.
"	condorset.
"	congo.
"	Corinne.
"	Councillor Heyder.
"	Crampel.
"	Croix de Brahy.
"	Danton.
"	Dame Blanche.
"	de Jussien.
"	de Miribel.
"	de Saussure.
"	des fontaines.
"	Deuil d'Emile Galle.
"	Doyen Keteléeer.
"	Dr. Chas. Jacob.
"	Dr. Lindley.
"	Dr. Masters.
"	Dr. Maillot.
"	Dr. Noble.
"	Dr. Regal.
"	Dr. Troyanowsky.
"	Duc de Nassau.

Syringa vulgaris	Duc de Emile Galle.
"	" Eckenholm.
"	" Edmund About.
"	" Edouard Andre.
"	" Edmund Boissier.
"	" Emile Lemoine.
"	" Emil Liebig.
"	" Etoile de Mai.
"	" Erzherzog Johann.
"	" Farrionensis.
"	" flore bicolor
"	" flore pleno.
"	" Francisque Morel.
"	" Frau Dammann.
"	" Furst Lichtenstein.
"	" Gaudichaud.
"	" Geheimrat Lingle- man.
"	" Gilbert.
"	" General Druhot.
"	" Georges Ballair.
"	" Gloire de la Ro- chelle.
"	" Gloire de la Lor- raine.
"	" Gloire de Moulins.
"	" Godron.
"	" Goliath.
"	" Grand Duc Con- stantin.
"	" Guizot.
"	" hyacinthiflora.

Syringa vulgaris	hybrida.
"	" Hippolyte Mainzer.
"	" Jacques Callot.
"	" Jean Bart.
"	" Jean d'Arc.
"	" Jules Ferry.
"	" Jules Simon.
"	" La Mauve.
"	" Lamarck.
"	" Lamartine.
"	" languis.
"	" Latour d'Auvergne.
"	" Leon Gambetta.
"	" Leopold II.
"	" Le Gaulois.
"	" le printemps.
"	" lilarosa.
"	" linne.
"	" L'Oncle Tom.
"	" Louis Henry.
"	" Louis Van Houtte.
"	" Lovaniensis.
"	" Lucie Battet.
"	" Ludwig Spath.
"	" macrostachia.
"	" Madame Abel Chat- enay.
"	" Madame Amelia Duprat.
"	" Madame Antoine Buchner.
"	" Madame Briot.

Syringa vulgaris	Madame Catherine -Bruchet.
"	Madame Casimir Berier.
"	" Madame de Miller.
"	" Madame Florent Stepman
"	" Madame F. Morel.
"	" Madame Jules Fin- ger.
"	" Madame Kreuter.
"	" Madame Lemoine.
"	" Madame Leon Simon.
"	" Madame le Page.
"	" Madame Moser.
"	" Marie Le Graye.
"	" Marliacea pallida.
"	" Marc Micheli.
"	" Marechal de Bas- sompierre.
"	" Marechal Lannes.
"	" Maurice de Vil- morin.
"	" Mascimowisczi.
"	" Matthieu de Dom- basle.
"	" Madlle. Viger.
"	" Melide Laurent.
"	" Michel Buchner.
"	" Milton.
"	" M. J. de Messe- maeker.

Syringa vulgaris	Miss Ellen Wilmott.
"	" M. van Aerschot.
"	" M. Maxine Cornu.
"	" M. Leon Mathieu.
"	" Monument Carnot.
"	" Montgolfier.
"	" Montaigne.
"	" Mrs. E. Van Ness.
"	" nana.
"	" negro.
"	" nigrans.
"	" Noisettiana alba.
"	" obelisque.
"	" Olivier de Serres.
"	" Othello.
"	" Pasteur.
"	" Paul Hariot.
"	" Perle Stuckhardt.
"	" Peterson's.
"	" Philemon.
"	" Pierre Joigneaux.
"	" Planchon.
"	" President Carnot.
"	" President Fallieres.
"	" President Grevy.
"	" President Lambeau.
"	" President Loubet.
"	" President Massant.
"	" President Viger.
"	" Prince Camille de Rohan.

Syringa vulgaris	Prince de Beaubeau.
"	" Prince Nottger.
"	" Prince of Wales.
"	" Princess Alexandra.
"	" Princess Clementine.
"	" Princess Maria.
"	" Professor Sargent.
"	" Professor Stock-
	hart.
"	" quadricolor.
"	" Rabelais.
"	" Reine Elizabeth.
"	" Reaumur.
"	" Rene Jarry Des-
	loges.
"	" Renoncule.
"	" rosea grandiflora.
"	" rose a grande fleur.
"	" rouge de Trianon.
"	" rubella flore pleno.
"	" rubra de Marly.
"	" rubra insignis.
"	" souvenir de Roth-
	pletz.
"	" Schermerhorni.
"	" Scipion Cochet.
"	" Senator Vollard.
"	" Sibirica.
"	" Siebold.
"	" souvenir de L. Thi-
	baud.
"	" speciosa.

Syringa vulgaris	spectabilis.
"	" Stadtgartner Roth- platz.
"	" Steencruysii.
"	" Tangiers.
"	" Taglioni.
"	" Tomboucton.
"	" Toussant · L'Over- ture.
"	" Tournefort.
"	" Triomphe de Moul- ins.
"	" Triomphe d'Orleans.
"	" Vergissmeinicht.
"	" Versailliensis.
"	" Verschaffeltii.
"	" Vestale.
"	" Victor Lemoine.
"	" Ville de Limoges.
"	" Ville de Troyes.
"	" Violacea.
"	" virginalis.
"	" Vivian d Morel.
"	" Volcan.
"	" Vallettiana.
"	" Waldeck Rosseau.
"	" Wm. Robinson.
"	" No. 1 Lemoine 1905.
"	" No. 2 Lemoine 1905.
"	" No. 1 Spaeth 1892.
"	" No. 2 Spaeth 1892.

The collection contains 14 distinct species, the balance of 236 numbers being varieties of vulgaris for the most part, with a very few of chinensis, josikaea, Persica and villosa,—in all 250 named plants.
