LILACS IN THE ROCHESTER PARKS

R.E. Horsey
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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

PREFACE

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.
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*
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, tinged of lilac in first blooms.

*Syringa velutina*
Schneider Lilac
Lilac color.
Late

Syringa Meyeri
Purple lilac.

Syringa microphylla
White tinged pink. This also flowers in the fall.

Syringa Palibiniana
Light lavender.

Syringa Wolfii
Purple lilac tube, petals almost white inside.

Meyer Lilac

Littleleaf Lilac

Palabin Lilac

Wolf Lilac

Very Late

Syringa Henryi Lutece
Dark lilac. Very beautiful on June 10, 1938. This was the last of the named forms to bloom.

Syringa Josikaeae
Violet in color.

Syringa Josikaeae eximia
Reddish rose to dark lilac.

Syringa Josikaeae H. Zabel
Bluish lilac color.

Syringa Josikaeae pallida
Almost white.

Syringa Josikaeae rubra
Lilac with red shading, fades lighter.

Syringa Komarovii
Purple pink, lighter with age.

Syringa Komarovii Sargentiana
Dark lilac to purple, lighter with age.

Syringa Nanceiana
Light mauve lilac.

Syringa reflexa
Reddish lilac, lighter with age.

Syringa Sweginzowii
Light lilac to white.

Syringa tomentella
Lilac pink, white center.

Syringa Wilsonii
Little if any different from S. tomentella.

Lutece Lilac

Hungarian Lilac

Red Rose Lilac

Pale Hungarian Lilac

Red Hungarian Lilac

Komarof Lilac

Sargent Lilac

Floreal Lilac

Nodding Lilac

Sweginzow Lilac

Felty Lilac

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.

Syringa amurensis
" Japonica
" pokinensis
Manchurian Lilac
Japanese Tree Lilac
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.
Macrocastachya, 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.
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 eclairé.
- 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.