

ARNOLDIA



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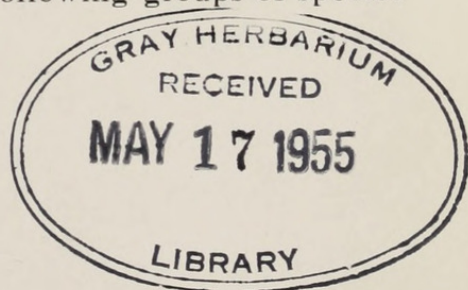
NUMBER 4

THE ARBORETUM LILACS IN THEIR ORDER OF BLOOM

THERE are at least five full weeks of lilac blooms at the Arnold Arboretum. This is not known to every Arboretum visitor, since to the majority, lilacs bloom only during a ten-day period in late May. It is true that the largest display comes at this time, since three fourths of the lilac collection consists of *Syringa vulgaris* varieties. But it is still true that there is a continuous display of lilac blooms for a five-week period at least, and sometimes this is extended for another week or two if weather conditions remain favorable.

When some of the species are compared with the many beautiful varieties of *S. vulgaris*, they are found lacking in color, fragrance and size; but when the *S. vulgaris* varieties are not in flower for comparison, these species and their comparatively few varieties are of interest and contain several plants well worth including in many garden plantings. It should be noted here that the excellent survey "Lilacs for America" first published in 1941 and rewritten and published in October 1953, is now available from most of the major Arboretums of the United States. This was an intensive study of all lilacs grown now in America, notes on color and origin together with actual sources where each variety is being grown and where each variety can be purchased. Much of the information in this issue of *Arnoldia* is taken from this extensive survey.

The Arboretum lilacs are listed according to the times at which they start to bloom. Frequently they may remain in bloom sufficiently long so that they can be used ornamentally with lilacs in another group. Thus, *S. chinensis* and *S. persica* come into bloom after the *S. vulgaris* varieties have reached their peak, but still can be used at the same time effectively. As is the case with the sequence of bloom of other ornamental trees and shrubs, weather conditions may alter the dates. However, after comparing the records based on the lilac collection at the Arnold Arboretum for several years, we find that the following groups of species and their varieties bloom together.



LILAC SEQUENCE OF BLOOM

Group 1

Blooming about May 10

S. oblata and varieties
hyacinthiflora
pinnatifolia

Common Name

Early Lilac
Hyacinth Lilac
Pinnate Lilac

Group 2

Blooming about May 20

S. chinensis and varieties
julianae
laciniata
meyeri
microphylla
persica
potanini
pubescens
velutina
vulgaris and varieties

Chinese Lilac
Juliana Lilac
Cutleaf Lilac
Meyer Lilac
Littleleaf Lilac
Persian Lilac
Potanin Lilac
Hairy Lilac
Manchurian Lilac
Common Lilac

Group 3

Blooming about June 5

S. emodi
henryi and varieties
josikaea and varieties
komarowi
prestoniae and varieties
reflexa
swegiflexa
sweginzowi
tomentella
villosa
wolfi
yunnanensis

Himalayan Lilac
Henry Lilac
Hungarian Lilac
Komarof Lilac
Preston Lilac
Nodding Lilac
Swegiflexa Lilac
Chengtu Lilac
Felty Lilac
Late Lilac
Wolfs Lilac
Yunnan Lilac

Group 4

Blooming about June 15

S. amurensis
amurensis japonica
pekinensis

Amur Lilac
Japanese Tree Lilac
Pekin Lilac

Not all the lilacs listed are of outstanding ornamental value, and not all are available in the trade in this country. It may be of value to *Arnoldia* readers, if a few in each group are pointed out as being good ornamental additions to garden plantings.



PLATE IV

The Late Lilac (*Syringa villosa*) blooms about June 5 after most of the *S. vulgaris* varieties have faded.

Group 1. The early lilac, *S. oblata*, comes from northern China and is valued because it is the first of all the lilacs to bloom and also because it is the only lilac with a red to orange autumn color. Unfortunately, there are times when the flower buds are injured by severe winters. The leaves are rarely disfigured by the mildew so evident on the common lilac in late summer. The variety *dilatata* is perhaps the best because of its large lilac-pink flower clusters.

There are several varieties of *S. hyacinthiflora* chiefly originated in France as a result of Victor Lemoine's hybridization at Nancy, France, and are of an intermediate lavender color. The varieties "Turgot" and "Necker" are probably the most prominent of the group. However, all the varieties of *S. hyacinthiflora* can be used for ornamental planting since they bloom slightly in advance of *S. vulgaris* and as a rule form larger growing and more vigorous shrubs. *S. pinnatifolia* is the least ornamental of any lilacs here listed.

Group 2. The Arboretum collection contains over 300 varieties of the common lilac. The better varieties selected as a result of the Lilac Survey of 1953, are listed in the following pages, mostly according to their popularity by the individuals who judged them.

This group of lilacs begins to bloom at the time the common lilac varieties are at their best. Both the Chinese and the Persian lilacs are valued for their lower habit of growth and for the larger number of blooms produced every year. Frequently the varieties of the common lilac tend to bloom well one year but have comparatively few blossoms the year following. These two species, however, bloom profusely every year and so are particularly good for cutting purposes. Of the Chinese lilac varieties, *saugeana* is possibly the best because of its deep pink flowers. The cutleaf lilac (*laciniata*) is also of value because of the feathery texture of its small lobed leaves. The hairy lilac (*S. pubescens*) is important because it is considered to be the most fragrant of all the lilacs, but the flowers are not as beautiful as those of the Chinese or Persian lilac, or, in fact, those of most of the common lilac varieties.

Group 3. Probably the best known of the varieties of *S. henryi* is "Lutèce," noted for its large pale purple flower clusters which are not fragrant. This variety and the others in Group 3 are important for they bloom at a time when all the flowers of *S. vulgaris* varieties have faded. The variety "Lutèce" grows vigorously and is available from many nurseries.

The late lilac, *S. villosa*, is common in gardens, and justly so, because of its many creamy-white flower clusters and good dense habit of growth.

Two hybrids are well worth growing, both being the result of Miss Isabella Preston's work at Ottawa, Canada. *Syringa prestoniae* named by Mrs. McKelvey, in honor of Miss Preston, is a group of hybrids, the flowers of which contain a great deal of pink. Most of the lilacs blooming in early June have white flowers,



PLATE V

The flowers of the Fringe-tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) appear in early June. It is a close relative of the lilac and a native from New Jersey to Florida but hardy into southern Maine. This interesting ornamental plant is one of the last to produce leaves in the spring.

but, because the pink flowering *S. reflexa* is one parent, *S. prestoniae* varieties are predominantly pink. This whole group is very important because the plants retain the vigorous growing qualities of *S. villosa* and some of the good color of *S. reflexa*. *Syringa reflexa* at the Arboretum has not proved a good shrub, though the individual flowers are very beautiful; but Miss Preston's hybrids are well worth growing in the United States. The second hybrid group has been named *S. swegiflexa*. At the Arboretum, our plants are small, but at Ottawa larger plants are growing and clearly show that nurserymen in the United States would do well to grow at least a few of these varieties for their late flowers.

Group 4. The last of the lilacs is the largest growing of all—the Japanese tree lilac. This was formerly considered to be a separate species (and is listed by most nurserymen as *S. japonica*), but it is now considered to be a variety of *S. amurensis*. It forms a single trunk and has very conspicuous large creamy-white flower clusters in mid-June. The bark is distinctly ornamental for it is very similar to that of *Prunus avium*. Where it is given sufficient space in which to expand, it develops into the most prominent of all lilacs.

SOME OF THE BEST HYBRID LILACS LISTED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS IN THE ORDER OF THEIR POPULARITY

(s = flowers single d = flowers double) (date is the date of origin)

Some Good Early Hybrids

s	"Necker" (1921) pink	s	"Assessippi" (1936) lilac
s	"Lamartine" (1911) pink	s	"Catinat" (1923) pink
s	"Pocahontas" (1935) purple	s	"Buffon" (1921) pink
s	"Louvois" (1921) violet	s	"Esther Staley" (1948) magenta
s	"Montesquieu" (1926) magenta	s	"Blue Hyacinth" (1943) blue

SYRINGA VULGARIS VARIETIES

(Blooming in Mid Season)

I (White)

s	"Vestale" (1910)	d	"Ellen Willmott" (1903)
s	"Mont Blanc" (1915)	d	"Edith Cavell" (1916)
s	"Jan Van Tol" (1916)	d	"Mme. Lemoine" (1890)
s	"Mme. Florent Stepman" (1908)	d	"Jeanne d'Arc" (1902)

II (Violet)

s	"De Miribel" (1903)	d	"Marechal Lannes" (1910)
s	"Cavour" (1910)	d	"Violetta" (1916)

III (Blue to Bluish)

s	"President Lincoln" (1924)	d	"Olivier de Serres" (1909)
s	"Decaisne" (1910)	d	"President Grevy" (1886)
s	"Maurice Barres" (1917)	d	"Duc De Massa" (1905)
s	"Firmament" (1932)	d	"Emile Gentil" (1915)

IV (Lilac)

s	"Jacques Callot" (1876)	d	"Leon Gambetta" (1907)
s	"Cristophe Colomb" (1905)	d	"President Fallieres" (1911)
d	"Victor Lemoine" (1906)	d	"Henri Martin" (1912)

V (Pink and Pinkish)

s	"Lucie Baltet" (1888)	d	"Mme. A. Buchner" (1905)
s	"Macrostachya" (1844)	d	"Montaigne" (1907)
d	"Katherine Havemeyer" (1922)	d	"Belle De Nancy" (1891)

VI (Magenta)

s	"Congo" (1896)	d	"Paul Thirion" (1915)
s	"Capitaine Baltet" (1919)	d	"Mrs. Edward Harding" (1923)
s	"Mme. F. Morel" (1892)	d	"Paul Deschanel" (1924)
s	"Marechal Foch" (1924)	d	"Charles Joly" (1896)

VII (Purple and Deep Purple)

s	"Ludwig Spaeth" (1883)	s	"Diderot" (1915)
s	"Monge" (1913)	d	"Adelaide Dunbar" (1924)
s	"Mrs. W. E. Marshall" (1924)	d	"Paul Hariot" (1902)

Some Good *Late Hybrids*

(Blooming after June 5)

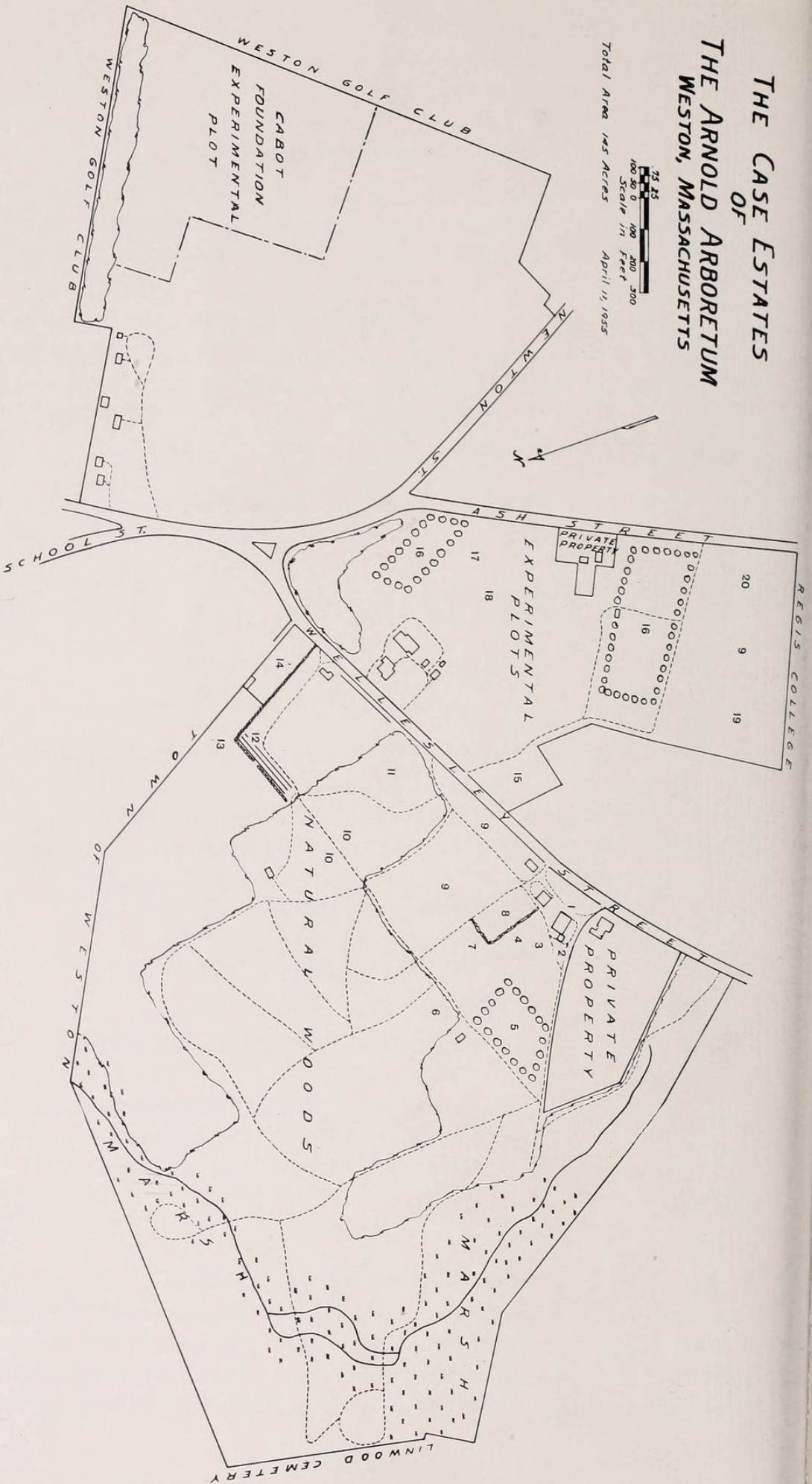
s	henryi	"Lutèce" (1900) (pale violet and pink)
s		"Prairial" (1933) (fuschia purple)
s	josiflexa	"Enid" (1927) (cyclamen purple)
s		"Lynette" (1927) (rhodamine pink)
s	prestoniae	"Ariel" (1927) (petunia purple)
s		"Coral" (1927) (rhodamine pink)
s		"Dawn" (1927) " "
s		"Hecla" (1927) " "
s		"Hiawatha" (1927) " "
s		"Isabella" (1927) (fuschia purple)
s		"Miranda" (1927) " "
s		"Nerissa" (1927) (cyclamen purple)
s		"Romeo" (1927) (rhodamine pink)
s		"Ursula" (1927) (fuschia purple)

DONALD WYMAN

NOTE: An Open House was held at the Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum on May 7 and 8, and several hundred visited the grounds at that time. These are always open to visitors and a detailed Map of the grounds is on the last page of this bulletin. It is here that the Arboretum maintains permanent and nursery plantings and conducts a portion of its experimental program in horticulture.

THE CASE ESTATES OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

75 25
100 50 0 100 200 500
Scale 1" = 100 Feet
Total Area 145 Acres
April 11, 1955



1. Barn, 135 Wellesley Street
 2. Greenhouse
 3. Cold Frames
 4. Young Plant House
 5. Malus sikkimensis Orchard
 6. Holly Collection
 7. Evergreen Nursery
 8. Ericaceous Nursery
 9. Nursery
 10. Woods Path
 11. Rhododendrons
 12. Wisteria Experiment
 13. Small Street Trees
 14. Ground Cover Demonstration Plots
 15. Perennial and Small Shrub Garden
 16. Orchard
 17. Beach Plum Collection
 18. Dwarf Fruit Trees
 19. Permanent Barberry and Currant Collection
 20. Permanent Shrub Testing Plot
- The Case Estates of the Arnold Arboretum are situated in the Town of Weston on both sides of Wellesley Street, between the major Massachusetts highways Route 20 and Route 30.



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