



A good white French Lilac, Vestale.

of the Privet understock. The root-system of the Privet understock is insufficient to supply the Lilac plant with the amount of water and food-salts necessary for its well-being and the result is, that the foliage on such grafted bushes is usually small and malformed until they develop their own root-system. From the point of view of those who want healthy plants that will grow freely from the date of planting there are only two ways of propagating Lilacs. One is by layering and the other by cuttings. Layering is a simple method of increasing not only Lilacs but nearly every other kind of shrub and small tree and a method much too infrequently practised. It consists of nothing more than notching or by other means rupturing the shoot, bending it down and covering the fracture with earth. Cuttings of moderately firm wood taken in mid-summer or soon afterwards according to locality root easily. In the Arboretum such cuttings are taken during the last days of June and the first of July. The leafy shoots are cut each from 3 to 4 inches long, with a piece of old wood, known technically as a heel, and are inserted in sand in a closed frame where they enjoy the benefit of bottom heat. Under such conditions they root in about a month. Afterwards they are moved into flats and the following spring planted out in the nursery grounds. From the start such plants are provided with their own root-system which is always sufficient to nourish the foliage and in three to four years they become nice bushy plants. Hardwood cuttings inserted in the ordinary sandpit of the propagating house in winter will root but much more slowly, often taking six months. It is admitted that Lilacs propagated from cuttings take longer to develop into saleable plants but in four or five years they overtake and soon outdistance those that have been budded or grafted on Privet.

French Lilacs, so-called because most of them have been raised in France, are the result of intercrossing and selection among the different forms of the Common Lilac. In size of inflorescence and of individual flower they far excel the parent stock but only a few retain the rich fragrance. The variety is very great and in the Arboretum collection nearly two hundred sorts may be seen. One of the most frequent inquiries is for a list of the best Lilacs. The compilation of any such list must be largely a matter of individual tastes, but the following twenty-five are entitled to high rank:

SINGLE VARIETIES: WHITE, Madame Florent Stepman, Princess Alexandria, Vestale, Mont Blanc; PALE, Lucie Baltet, Macrostachya; MEDIUM, Christophe Colomb, Madame F. Morel; DARK, Congo, Marceau, Edmond Boissier, Monge, Réaumur, Turenne.

DOUBLE VARIETIES: WHITE, Edith Cavell, Madame Casimir Périer, Princesse Clementine; PALE, Léon Gambetta; MEDIUM, Duc de Massa, Olivier de Serres, René Jarry-Desloges, Thunberg; DARK, Paul Thirion, Violetta Georges Bellair.

The Lilac collection is easily reached from Forest Hills Gate or the Centre Street Gate.

E. H. W.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1928. "French Lilacs." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(8), 31–32.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321939>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216914>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321939>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321939>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.