



The Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

month of November while the foliage is retained in excellent condition until the first frosts of December put in appearance. This Honey-suckle is a common inhabitant of the thickets and margins of woods in central and western China from whence it was introduced into cultivation in 1900 by E. H. Wilson. It demands plenty of space and where this can be given ranks as one of the most all-round beautiful members of an indispensable family. It is perfectly hardy, very floriferous and free fruiting and its scarlet berries nestling among green leaves are a thing of beauty when nearly all other deciduous leaved plants have shed their foliage.

Syringa Sweginzowii, one of the latest of the true Lilacs to blossom, is now in flower. This is a vigorous shrub from 10 to 12 or more feet tall, with ascending-spreading branches, reddish purple branchlets, and comparatively small ovate leaves. The flowers are pleasantly fragrant, pinkish in the bud, almost white when fully expanded and are produced in broad, loose, erect panicles at the end of every branch and twig. The stems are moderate in size and though nearly upright the habit of the plant is not stiff; indeed, when in full blossom it is graceful and pleasing. Two large plants may be seen in full bloom on the top of the Lilac bank near the Catalpas. Along with them other Lilacs in blossom are *S. yunnanensis*, *S. tomentella*, *S. reflexa* and *S. villosa*, showing the value of these Lilac species in long extending the season after the Common Lilac and its innumerable varieties have past out of bloom.

Hydrangea petiolaris, the Climbing Hydrangea, is the most vigorous root-climbing vine hardy in the climate of Massachusetts. Its stout stems, clothed with loose shaggy papery bark, put out a multitude of fine roots that hold the vine firmly against wall or tree-trunk. From the climbing stems lateral branches are thrust forth at right angles, each of which terminates in a flattened 6- to 10-inch broad cluster of small flowers among which large white 4-partite blooms are conspicuous. The leaves are plentiful, roundish, bright green and more or less finely toothed. This plant is native of Japan, where it is common on the tops of the highest trees. Under the erroneous name of *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, the Climbing Hydrangea has been in cultivation since 1875, but it is only within the last twenty years that its merits have begun to be properly appreciated. It is at home on tree trunks and for a southwesterly, westerly or northerly wall of a brick or stone building it is well adapted but it does not relish concrete. Also it may be grown effectively as a bush if allowed to sprawl over rocks or tree stumps. Pot-grown plants should be purchased since this Hydrangea does not transplant readily from open ground. A fine specimen may be seen on the northern wall of the Administration Building; in the Shrub Garden there is a plant growing in bush form.

E. H. W.

The subscription to this Bulletin is \$1.00 per year.

Back numbers available.



Wilson, Ernest Henry. 1929. "Hydrangea petiolaris." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 3(9), 35–36.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322057>.

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