

## ARNOLDIA



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## LILACS

LILAC time has come to the Arnold Arboretum two weeks early this year. The vagaries of the weather have been such that the oriental crab apples and the lilacs have bloomed together for the first time in many years. In a recent trip through Philadelphia and Washington it was pointed out that in some sections the season is a full two weeks in advance and in others it is not, but everyone in the sections where it is advanced agrees that it has come very quickly—and to many a commercial grower it has come considerably faster than expected. This has resulted in a financial loss to many a nurseryman, whose nursery stock has come into leaf sooner than anticipated and hence his planting season has been shortened.

In ARNOLDIA (Vol. 2, No. 6, April 24, 1942) was published a list of the "One Hundred Best Lilacs" of *Syringa vulgaris* varieties. Now, the following list is offered as being the best of all the lilacs, hybrids and species together—at least of the hundreds which have been on trial in the collections of the Arnold Arboretum.

Not everyone will agree with this short list, particularly with the reduction in number of the *S. vulgaris* varieties. Others may look upon it aghast and remark that every lilac variety has a place in horticulture. However, this viewpoint is hard to accept, especially when one can cut a branch of opening flowers of "Mrs. W. E. Marshall," "Congo," "Ludwig Spaeth" and "Rhum von Horstenstein," mix them up and then defy even the experts to distinguish one from the other. This can be done when the flowers are first opening, and brings up the point that many lilacs are similar—certainly as far as their landscape qualifications are concerned.

The following list of lilacs is admittedly small—many will consider it too small. It does include the best of the lilacs which have been growing in the Arboretum collection for a period of years. Merely because a lilac variety is not listed does



not mean that it is inferior. However, those included can be considered to be among the best landscape plants of all the 450 species and varieties being grown in the collection during the past few years. Some new and recently introduced varieties have not been growing a sufficiently long time to be judged properly. Those who have small gardens, and room for only a very few lilacs, would do well to make their selections from this list, rather than to become entangled with the lengthy lists of names in the larger collections of the country.

### RECOMMENDED LILACS

<i>Syringa species and varieties</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Normal Time of Bloom</i>	<i>Color</i>
amurensis japonica	30'	mid-June	creamy white
chinensis	15'	late May	purple-lilac
“ alba	15'	late May	white
“ saugeana	15'	late May	lilac-red
henryi “Lutece”	10'	early June	pale violet and pink
henryi × tomentella “Prairial”	9'	early June	fuschia purple
josiflexa “Enid”	9'	“ “	cyclamen purple
“ “Lynette”	9'	“ “	rhodamine pink
josikaea	12'	“ “	lilac violet
laciniata	6'	late May	pale lilac
microphylla	6'	“ “	“ “
nanceana “Floreal”	9'	early June	petunia purple
oblata dilatata	12'	early May	pinkish
oblata dilatata × vulgaris “Assessippi”	12'	“ “	pinkish mauve
“ “ “ “ “Pocahontas”	12'	“ “	reddish purple
oblata giraldi × vulgaris “Catinat”	12'	“ “	pinkish
“ “ “ “ “Lamartine”	12'	“ “	“
“ “ “ “ “Louvois”	12'	“ “	violet
“ “ “ “ “Necker”	12'	“ “	pinkish
“ “ “ “ “Turgot”	12'	“ “	“
“ “ “ “ “Villars”	12'	“ “	lilac
persica	6'	late May	pale lilac
prestoniae	9'	mid-June	pink to deep pink
“ “Ariel”	9'	“ “	petunia purple
“ “Coral”	9'	“ “	rhodamine pink
“ “Dawn”	9'	“ “	“ “
“ “Hecla”	9'	“ “	“ “
“ “Hiawatha”	9'	“ “	“ “
“ “Isabella”	9'	“ “	fuschia purple
“ “Miranda”	9'	“ “	“ “
“ “Nerissa”	9'	“ “	cyclamen purple
“ “Romeo”	9'	“ “	rhodamine pink





*The famous Lilac Path in the Arnold Arboretum around which is clustered one of the world's most complete collections.*





prestoniae	"Ursulla"	9'	mid-June	fuschia purple
swegiflexa		9'	early June	rhodamine pink
sweginzowi		9'	early June	reddish lilac
villosa		9'	" "	rosy lilac to white
vulgaris		20'	mid-May	lilac
"	alba	20'	" "	white
"	"Vestale" - single			"
"	"Mont Blanc" - single			"
"	"Jan Van Tol" - single			"
"	"Marie Finon" - single			"
"	"Edith Cavell" - double			"
"	"Ellen Willmott" - double			"
"	"De Miribel" - single			violet
"	"Cavour" - single			"
"	"Marechal Lannes" - double			"
"	"Violetta" - double			"
"	"President Lincoln" - single			blue and bluish
"	"Decaisne" - single			" " "
"	"Maurice Barres" - single			" " "
"	"Olivier de Serres" - double			" " "
"	"Emile Gentil" - double			" " "
"	"Duc de Massa" - double			" " "
"	"Marengo" - single			lilac
"	"Jacques Callot" - single			"
"	"President Fallieres" - double			"
"	"Henri Martin" - double			"
"	"Victor Lemoine" - double			"
"	"Leon Gambetta" - double			"
"	"Lucie Baltet" - single			pink and pinkish
"	"Macrostachya" - single			" " "
"	"Mme. Antoine Buchner" - double			" " "
"	"Katherine Havemeyer" - double			" " "
"	"Montaigne" - double			" " "
"	"Marechal Foch" - single			magenta
"	"Mme. F. Morel" - single			"
"	"Capitaine Baltet" - single			"
"	"Paul Thirion" - double			"
"	"Paul Deschanel" - double			"
"	"Mrs. Edward Harding" - double			"
"	"Monge" - single			purple (or deep purple)
"	"Mrs. W. E. Marshall" - single			" " " "
"	"Ludwig Spaeth" - single			" " " "

In going through this list of species and hybrids, it is noted that the time of bloom varies from early May to mid-June, nearly six weeks. This is important in making selections for the small garden. Also the height varies, the lowest being *S. microphylla* and *S. persica*—about six feet tall—and the highest being the tree lilac, *S. amurensis japonica*—about thirty feet tall. The range here is most useful in helping the gardener select the right lilac for the right place.

DONALD WYMAN

## NOTE

### The Lilac Path in Color

ARNOLDIA subscribers and friends of the Arboretum have known that pictures in full color have been taken as a matter of course since 1936. All color films have been used, some with better success than others. The collection of color transparencies on file in the Arboretum now numbers well into the thousands. Many of these are used in lectures by staff members, many are for record purposes in noting differences among the horticultural varieties.

The new guide book, "Through the Arnold Arboretum," contains five color prints made from selected transparencies. It is obvious that color reproduction (i.e. printing on paper) has not kept advancing as rapidly as color photography; yet even with its limitations, some color pictures tell a better story than do black and white pictures. Some do not! However, ARNOLDIA readers will receive these first few color reproductions from time-to-time so that they, too, may have reminders of the glorious color displays made by the plants that grow in the Arnold Arboretum.





Wyman, Donald. 1949. "Lilacs." *Arnoldia* 9(4), 13–16.

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