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Lilacs. To most persons the Lilac is the shrub with red-purple or with white flowers to which botanists have given the name of *Syringa vulgaris*. There are, however, many other kinds of Lilac, and in addition to *Syringa vulgaris* and some one hundred and fifty seedling forms of it there are twenty species and several hybrids in the Arboretum collection. The common Lilac is said to have reached western Europe from Constantinople; it was cultivated in a garden near London in 1593 and had become known in the United States at least as early as the middle of the eighteenth century. Washington wrote of it in his diary and planted it at Mt. Vernon where his plants or their descendants still flourish. One of the most popular of garden plants in all cold and temperate countries, the original home of this Lilac remained unknown for three centuries after its introduction into England. Some writers believed it to be a native of Persia and others considered central Asia or northern China its home, and it is only a few years ago that it was discovered to be a native of the mountain forests of Bulgaria. Specimens of the wild plant raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected in Bulgaria are growing on the left-hand side of the walk going up the hill through the Lilac Collection and are labeled "*Syringa vulgaris*, Bulgaria." It is interesting to compare the narrow clusters of small lilac-purple flowers with the large ones of many shades of color which gardeners in the last three centuries have developed from the wild plant. It is evident that no great additional improvement can now be expected from seedlings of the common Lilac. The beauty limit appears to have been reached and many of the seedlings raised in recent years and named and sold by nurserymen show no

improvement on the older varieties, and all that is best in these plants can really be found in a dozen varieties or less. The Arboretum is often asked to furnish a list of the best varieties. This is difficult to do for what one person may like in the color of a flower another may not care for. The following, however, are good varieties, and a Lilac garden confined to these varieties would certainly be more beautiful than one in which the attempt was made to plant together all the varieties that have received names: Charles X (rosy lilac), Philemon, Ludwig Späth and Congo (dark red-purple), Macrostachya and Gloire de Moulins (double white), Marie Legraye (single white), Madame Lemoine and Miss Ellen Willmott (pink), Justi (blue). It must be remembered that the Arboretum collection of these plants is intended to show what not to plant as well as to show the most desirable varieties to plant. Next to the common Lilac the Persian Lilac, *Syringa persica*, is probably the best known species. It reached England fifty years later and ever since has been a popular garden plant as it flowers after the common Lilac. There are pale rosy purple and white-flowered varieties and one with deeply-divided leaves (var. *laciniata*). A little more than a hundred years ago a hybrid between the common and the Persian Lilac appeared in the Botanic Garden at Rouen. This proved to be one of the handsomest, hardiest and most vigorous of all Lilacs, recalling its Persian parent in its small flowers produced, however, in enormous clusters, its slender branches and narrow leaves, while the color of the flowers shows the influence of *Syringa vulgaris*. Unfortunately, under the supposition that this plant had come from China, it was named *Syringa chinensis*, the name under which it must be known; it is also sometimes called *Syringa rothomagensis*. There is a variety with pale nearly white flowers (var. *alba*). A Lilac from northern China, *S. pubescens*, is still too little known in gardens; it is a tall shrub with erect stems, small leaves and broad clusters of pale lilac-colored flowers remarkable for the long tube of the corolla and for their delicate fragrance. For this fragrance, if for no other reason, this Lilac should find a place in every northern garden. Another Lilac from northern China, *S. villosa*, is a large vigorous shrub with pale rose-colored or nearly white flowers which have a distinctly disagreeable odor. The flowers, however, are handsome and abundant, and this plant should be cultivated for it is the last to bloom of the true Lilacs. The crossing of this plant in Paris a few years ago with the small-flowered Hungarian Lilac, *S. Josikaea*, produced a race of hybrids of extraordinary beauty. The general name for these hybrids is *Syringa Henryi*, so named in honor of the gardener who produced them. One of this hybrid race, called Lutèce, is one of the most beautiful of all garden Lilacs, although its Hungarian parent is perhaps the least beautiful of the whole genus and the last species most breeders would have chosen for the production of a new race of garden plants. The beauty of Lutèce shows that it is impossible to foretell what hybrids may produce and makes it reasonable to hope that by the use in this way of some of the new species discovered by Wilson in western China new hybrid races may be obtained of distinct value as garden plants. All the new species from western China are growing well and

promise to be perfectly hardy. The flowers of none of them, however, are as handsome as some of those of the better known species, although *Syringa reflexa* is interesting as the only Lilac which bears its flowers in drooping clusters. These new Chinese Lilacs are planted along the southern end of the grass path which follows the top of the bank occupied by the Lilac Collection. Lilacs have been flowering in the Arboretum now for the last two weeks and will continue to flower until the first of July. Most of the varieties of the common Lilac will be in flower when this Bulletin reaches its readers living near Boston.

Red-flowered Azaleas. When the red-flowered Japanese Azalea (*Rhododendron Kaempferi*) blooms it is one of the great periods in the Arboretum. It is planted in masses at the lower end of Azalea Path, in a large group under the shade of the Hemlocks on Hemlock Hill, and on the northern edge of Hemlock Hill in a long narrow band between the Hemlocks and the Laurels (*Kalmia*). The flowers of this plant are so delicate that they soon fade when fully exposed to the sun, and it is desirable to select a partially shaded position for it similar to the northern base of Hemlock Hill. Here the plants flower a week or ten days later than they do on Azalea Path, where they are now fully open, and so prolong in the Arboretum the flowering period of this brilliant hardy shrub.

A new Korean Azalea. Among the plants introduced into the Arboretum by Mr. Jack a few years ago one of the most valuable is an Azalea which has now been named *Rhododendron coreanum*. In cultivation here it is a low, compact, round-topped shrub with large, rosy mauve or red-violet flowers marked near the base of the corolla with small dark spots; the flowers of few Azaleas have a more delicate and delightful perfume. During the past week a number of these plants on the upper side of Azalea Path have been covered with flowers. They have been growing here in one of the most exposed spots in the Arboretum for three years and have never been at all injured by cold or drought, and it seems safe to predict that this Azalea will be a first-rate plant for New England gardens.

An interesting Apple. Little is known in this country of an Apple tree *Malus ringo*, which is one of the latest of the Asiatic Apples to flower in the Arboretum. It was introduced from Japan into Europe by Siebold some sixty years ago and was called by him *Pyrus ringo*, Ringo being the common name for the Apple tree in Japan. It is not a Japanest tree, however, but before the introduction of European Apples appears to have been generally cultivated there. Now it is rare in Japan although occasionally found in the north where it is called Rinke, having been replaced in the more southern parts of the country by varieties of European or American Apples. Wilson in his travels in China discovered this Apple-tree growing wild on the mountains of Hupeh at elevations of from four thousand to five thousand feet above the sea and that it is the cultivated Apple of western China. The interesting thing about this tree is that it flourishes equally well as a fruit tree in the hot climate of Ichang, only a few feet above the sea level, where oranges ripen their fruit, and on the borders of

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