burg. It appears to be less commonly cultivated than the other Tree Lilacs. Judging by the climate of the region where it grows naturally, it will probably prove one of the best shrubs or small trees for the northern interior region of Canada and for the northern states of the Mississippi valley. *S. pekinensis* is usually the next of the three Tree Lilacs to bloom, although this year it is beginning to flower rather later than *S. japonica*. It is a native of northern China and is a shrub rather than a tree, although it sometimes grows in this country thirty feet high, with numerous stout, spreading stems distinctly drooping at the ends and covered with light yellowish brown bark separating into thin layers like that of some of the Birch-trees. The leaves are narrower than those of the other species, long-pointed, drooping on long stalks, and usually about three inches long and from half an inch to an inch wide. The flower-clusters, which are produced every year in immense numbers, are smaller than those of the other Tree Lilacs and are flat, very unsymmetrical, partly drooping and about five or six inches long and broad. This fine plant has been growing in the Arboretum since 1883 when it was raised from seeds sent here from Peking by the late Dr. Bretschneider. *S. pekinensis* has been somewhat distributed by American nurserymen and there are now large specimens in several Massachusetts gardens. The last of the three Tree Lilacs, *S. japonica*, is a native of the forests of northern Japan and a tree sometimes forty feet high with a tall stem sometimes a foot or more in diameter and covered with lustrous reddish brown bark like that of a Cherry-tree, and comparatively small, spreading and ascending branches which form a rather narrow round-topped head. The leaves are dark green, lustrous, four or five inches long and about two and a half inches wide, and the flower-clusters, which are erect and more symmetrical than those of the other Tree Lilacs, are from twelve to eighteen inches long and from twelve to fourteen inches wide. This tree was first cultivated in the Arboretum from seeds sent here from Sapporo in Hokkaido in 1876 by Mr. W. S. Clark, the first president of the Agricultural College at Sapporo. The seedlings grow rapidly and in 1886 were fifteen or sixteen feet high. The Tree Lilacs are growing on the bank on the left-hand side of the Bussey Hill Road in the Lilac Collection, and one of the original seedlings of *S. japonica* which was planted in what was once a nursery can be seen on the left-hand side of the Forest Hills Road in front of the Crab-apple Collection. This is the year for the abundant bloom of the Japanese species and the plants are covered with flower-clusters.

Salvia officinalis. This little aromatic shrub is now in bloom in the Shrub Collection. The flowers are bright purple, showy, about three-quarters of an inch long, and are arranged in erect, terminal, compound racemes six inches in length. This plant is a native of southern Europe and has been cultivated in Europe for centuries for medicinal and culinary purposes, and formerly was much used in making "sage tea." Although rarely seen outside of the kitchen garden, it is well worth a place as a flowering plant in a collection of dwarf shrubs.

Thymus Serpyllum. This is another fragrant plant of the same family as the Salvia, and is growing near it in the Shrub Collection where it forms a broad mat of light green leaves only a few inches high. In a few days this will be covered with innumerable small lilac-colored flowers. The "Mother of Thyme," as this plant is sometimes

1916. "Salvia officinalis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 2(10), 38–38. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.320535>.

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