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Wisterias. All the species and varieties of *Wisteria* have now been arranged on the trellis near the Forest Hills Road with the exception of the white-flowered form of *W. sinensis*, *W. japonica* and the double-flowered form of *W. venusta*. The first appears to be an exceedingly rare plant; it was found by Fortune in Chinese gardens and first flowered in England in 1849, and Wilson saw occasional plants on the cliffs near Ichang in central China. This plant has never been in the Arboretum. There was a plant in Francis Parkman's garden in Jamaica Plain which flowered in 1880 but has now disappeared; there is said to be a specimen in a garden in Connecticut, and there are two splendid old plants in gardens in Opelousas, Louisiana. It is wanted for the Arboretum collection. *Wisteria japonica* is a smaller plant than the other Asiatic species, with slender stems and small clusters of pale yellow flowers. This plant flowered in the Dana collection at Dosoris, Long Island, in 1879, and once many years ago produced a few flowers in the Arboretum. It is a native of the warmer parts of Japan, and not really hardy in the northern states.

There are two American species native of the middle and southern states; the best known of these, *Wisteria frutescens*, is the more northern plant and is a slender vine with short compact clusters of comparatively small fragrant flowers. It is a less showy plant than the other species but is interesting as the first of the *Wisterias* cultivated in the United States and Europe. There is a white-flowered variety (var. *alba*). A handsomer plant is *Wisteria macrostachya* from the Missouri-Louisiana-Texas region but fortunately perfectly hardy

in Massachusetts. It has much larger flowers in longer racemes than the other American species from which it can be distinguished by its longer calyx-lobes and by the glandular hairs on the calyx and flower-stalks. A fine form of this plant was once common in gardens under the name of *Wisteria magnifica* which has often been incorrectly considered a variety of *W. frutescens*. Another form with blue and white flowers has been described under the name of var. *albo-lilacina*. *W. macrostachya*, although the flowers are less showy than those of the Asiatic species, is a beautiful plant which is too little known in gardens. The American Wisterias bloom later than the Asiatic species and prolong the Wisteria season for several weeks.

Wisteria venusta. The earliest of the Wisterias to flower is *W. venusta*, and although this plant had been sent to the United States and Europe for several years by Japanese nurserymen, nothing was really known about it until Wilson's visit to Japan in 1914 when he found that it was a distinct and undescribed species distinguished by broad clusters, not more than six inches long, of very large flowers on stems an inch and a quarter in length and by the soft hairs which cover the lower surface of the leaves through the season. This plant, although it has long been grown in Japanese gardens where there are very large specimens, is not Japanese, and it is now believed to be an albino form of the blue-flowered Wisteria which is cultivated in Peking and other gardens of northern China but which has not yet been described by botanists or brought to this country. If this opinion of the origin of *W. venusta* is correct it should prove hardier than any of the other Asiatic Wisterias and perhaps make it possible to extend much further northward the successful cultivation of these plants. The flower-buds of *W. venusta* are well developed in the autumn and it is the easiest of all Wisterias to bring into bloom in the winter by artificial heat. There is a form with double flowers (var. *plena*) which is occasionally cultivated by Japanese florists and is known in England.

Wisteria sinensis grows naturally in central and southern China, and is the common Wisteria in the gardens of the United States and one of the most vigorous of the hardy climbing plants of the northern hemisphere. In New England country gardens the flower-buds are often killed by cold, and it grows better on city houses where it is more protected than in the country. In the southern states, where it often grows to the tops of trees more than a hundred feet high, and in California it is seen in its greatest magnificence. The white-flowered form is the only variety of this plant which has yet been found.

Wisteria floribunda. This is the common Japanese Wisteria and is found growing naturally only in the central and southern parts of that country. It has smaller and more fragrant flowers in narrower and more open clusters than the Chinese plant, and blooms here ten or twelve days later. This Wisteria is one of the most generally cultivated garden plants in Japan, and Wilson found in a garden at Kasukabe a plant which extended over a bamboo arbor one-sixth of an acre in extent and was covered with flower-clusters which measured up to sixty-four inches in length. This garden form with the long clusters has been distinguished as variety *macrobotrys*. On wild plants the flower-clusters are sometimes not more than ten inches long, and in

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