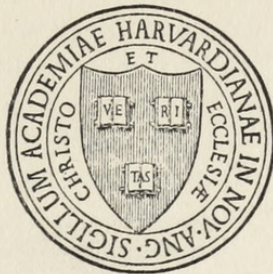


ARNOLD ARBORETUM  
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**Late Flowering Lilacs.** Among these are plants which can add much to the beauty of northern gardens in the last weeks of June and in early July. They are eastern Asiatic with the exception of the Hungarian *Syringa Josikaea*, which is the only one of these plants which has not been introduced into gardens since this Arboretum was established, and belong to the group of true Lilacs in distinction to the "Tree Lilacs" which bloom later and differ in their stamens which are longer than the corolla, while in all other Lilacs the stamens are shorter than the corolla and are hidden in its tube. The first of the late flowering true Lilacs from eastern Asia which reached the Arboretum was *Syringa villosa* which was raised here in 1882 from seed sent by the late Dr. Bretschneider, at that time physician attached to the Russian Embassy at Peking. This has proved the most valuable of these plants. It is perfectly hardy; it grows rapidly into a large, round-headed, compact bush which is often fifteen feet high and broad; it flowers every year, and few shrubs are more floriferous. The flowers are arranged in long, narrow clusters and are pale rose-pink, flesh color, or occasionally nearly white. The leaves, which are long, comparatively narrow, long-pointed, and dull green, are not attacked by the fungus which often disfigures in summer the leaves of the common garden Lilacs. Unfortunately the odor of the flowers, which is not very strong, however, is distinctly disagreeable. This is the only one of the late-flowering Lilacs which has been used successfully by the plant breeder. Crossed in the nurseries of the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris with *Syringa Josikaea*, it has produced a race of Lilacs of vigorous growth with the habit of the Chinese plant, and in some of its forms with flowers more or less deeply tinged with the violet color of the Hungarian parent. To the handsomest of these hybrids with violet-colored flowers the name "Lutèce" has been given. This has

not before in the Arboretum been more covered with flowers than it has been this year, and certainly no shrub of recent introduction into our gardens better deserves a place in them. Another plant of this race known as "Eximea" is also flowering well this year. It differs in its more compact clusters of rose-colored or reddish flowers which on opening become light pink.

Although still little known as a wild or as a garden plant, another northern species, *Syringa Wolfii*, promises to be valuable in early summer gardens. It reached the Arboretum in 1906 from Petrograd where it had probably been sent from northern Korea or Manchuria by the Russian traveler Komarov. The foliage resembles that of *S. villosa*, but the flowers are arranged in much larger clusters and are smaller and violet purple; their color is not unlike that of the hybrid "Lutèce" but they are smaller and in denser clusters. *Syringa Sweginzowii*, another north Chinese plant, came to the Arboretum from Petrograd in 1910. With each succeeding year the estimate here of the beauty and value of this plant is increased. It is a tall narrow shrub with slender erect stems, dark dull green pointed leaves, and long narrow flower-clusters; the flowers are delicately fragrant and half an inch long, with a slender corolla-tube and flesh-colored in the bud are nearly white after the buds open. Even very small plants of this Lilac flower freely. Not very unlike this species in habit, *Syringa yunnanensis* from southwestern China differs in its more fragrant flowers which are white, faintly tinged with rose color. Another related species, *Syringa microphylla*, is interesting because, unlike other Lilacs, it flowers in the Arboretum twice during the year, once the middle of June and a second time in October. The flowers are nearly white and pleasantly fragrant. *Syringa tomentella*, an older name for the plant later called *Syringa Wilsonii*, is a tall, vigorous, fast-growing shrub with erect stems, dull green leaves, and open, long-branched panicles of pale rose-colored flowers. *Syringa Julianae*, like the last a recent discovery in western China, is a late flowering plant closely related to the north China *S. pubescens*. It has the same shaped flowers with the long narrow corolla-tube, but they are arranged in a shorter cluster, and are less fragrant than those of the northern plant. The beauty of the flower-clusters of *S. Julianae* is increased by the contrast between the violet purple color of the outer surface of the corolla and the white inner surface of its lobes. Two new species, *Syringa reflexa* and *S. Sargentiana*, discovered by Wilson in western China, with leaves very similar to those of *Syringa villosa*, are blooming rather more freely this year than before, although the Arboretum plants may be expected to be more prolific as they grow older. *Syringa reflexa* is a conspicuous plant at this season of the year, for unlike those of all other Lilacs the flower-clusters are gracefully arching and pendent on long stems; they are cylindric, very compact, unbranched, and rarely more than an inch and a quarter in diameter. The flowers are deep rose color with a long slender tube and the odor of those of *S. villosa*. In habit *Syringa Sargentiana* resembles *S. reflexa*, but differs from that species in the large, long-branched flower-clusters which are erect, spreading or nodding, and sometimes eighteen inches long and twelve inches across. The flowers are rather paler in color than those of *S. reflexa* and white on the inner surface

of the corolla lobes. *Syringa Koehneana* is as usual flowering very sparingly, and it is doubtful if this Korean shrub will have much value as a garden plant in this climate. It is a vigorous, irregularly growing plant with large leaves and short, broad, compact clusters of rose-colored flowers white on the inner surface of the corolla lobes.

**Tree Lilacs.** The Lilac season closes with the flowering of these eastern Asiatic species which are popularly known as "Tree Lilacs." They all have handsome dark green leaves which fall in the autumn without change of color, and large usually unsymmetrical clusters of white flowers with the disagreeable odor of the flowers of the Privet. They are handsome and hardy plants and when in bloom the most conspicuous of the trees or large arborescent shrubs of their season. This year, the three species promise an unusually abundant bloom. The first of these plants to flower, *Syringa amurensis*, is a native of eastern Siberia, and a shrub twelve or fifteen feet high, with dark-colored bark, leaves pale on the lower surface, and short unsymmetrical flower-clusters which usually are produced only on alternate years. *Syringa pekinensis* blooms soon after *S. amurensis*. It is a native of northern China and a shrub sometimes thirty feet tall and broad, with stout spreading stems covered with yellow-brown bark separating into thin plate-like scales like that of some Birch-trees, narrow, long-pointed leaves, and short, unsymmetrical flower-clusters, usually in pairs. This species retains its leaves later in the autumn than the other "Tree Lilacs," and it flowers profusely every year. The last of these plants to flower, *Syringa japonica*, is a native of northern Japan and a tree sometimes forty feet high, with a tall straight trunk covered with lustrous brown bark like that of a Cherry-tree, a round-topped head of erect branches, broad thick leaves and mostly symmetrical flower-clusters often eighteen inches in length. This tree rarely flowers except in alternate years.

**Berberis Vernae.** Gardeners often complain that there are now too many Barberries, and it is certainly true that only an expert who has devoted years of special study to the genus can readily distinguish all the species, varieties and hybrids in the groups of which *Berberis vulgaris*, the common Barberry of western Europe, and now naturalized in the northeastern United States, is a typical plant. There are now probably at least one hundred different Barberries in the Arboretum Collection and the number is likely to increase rather than to decrease, for Barberries hybridize easily in collections like the one in the Arboretum, and it is more than probable that China, the headquarters of the genus, may still contain undescribed species. There may be too many Barberries but no one who has once seen *Berberis Vernae* as it is now growing in the Arboretum will regret that Wilson, who discovered this plant in China, sent seeds to the Arboretum in 1910 from the neighborhood of Sungtan in the upper Min Valley where he found it at an altitude of about nine thousand feet above sea-level, growing with the other Chinese Barberries. *B. Vernae* is here now about six feet tall and nearly as much in diameter. The long, slender, bright red branches covered with small, nearly entire leaves arch and droop gracefully, and from them hang on long stems innumerable slender clusters of small, pale yellow, slightly fragrant flowers which in the autumn are followed



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