first shrubs which emigrants brought with them to this country. Among the American species which should find a place in all gardens are *P. inodorus*, *P. pubescens* and *P. microphyllus*. The first is a native of the Appalachian Mountain region and grows to a height of six feet; it has arching branches and large, pure white, cup-shaped, solitary, scentless flowers. By some persons it is considered the most beautiful when in bloom of the whole genus. *P. pubescens*, often called *P. grandiflorus* or *P. latifolius*, is also a plant of the southern Appalachian region. This sometimes grows to the height of twenty feet, with stout, erect branches, broad leaves and slightly fragrant flowers in erect five- to ten-flowered racemes. This plant is more common in gardens than the last, and when it is in bloom it makes a great show. *P. microphyllus*, which rarely grows more than three feet tall, has slender stems, and leaves and flowers smaller than those of any *Philadelphus* in cultivation. What the flowers lack in size, however, is made up in fragrance which is stronger than that of any other *Syringa*. The most distinct and handsomest of the Asiatic species in the Arboretum is *P. purpurascens*, discovered by Wilson in western China. This is a large shrub with long arching stems from which rise numerous branchlets from four to six inches long and spreading at right angles; on these branches the flowers are borne on drooping stems; they are an inch and a half long, with a bright purple calyx and pure white petals which do not spread as they do on most of the species but form a bell-shaped corolla and are extremely fragrant. This certainly must be numbered among the handsomest shrubs brought from western China by Wilson to the Arboretum.

Philadelphus pekinensis from northern China and Mongolia is a stout shrub rather broader than high which every year produces large quantities of small flowers tinged with yellow. Another interesting garden plant is *P. Falconeri* which is certainly Asiatic and probably Japanese; it has narrow lanceolate leaves and fragrant flowers in from one- to six-flowered racemes. The origin and history of this plant are not known. Some of the species hybridize freely, and several of the handsomest of the *Syringas* are hybrids. One of the first of these hybrids to attract attention was raised in France before 1870 by Monsieur A. Billard and is known as *P. insignis* and is sometimes called "Souvenir de Billard." It is one of the handsomest of the large growing *Syringas*, and the last or nearly the last to bloom in the Arboretum. The flowers will not be open for nearly another month. A hybrid probably between *P. grandiflorus* of the Appalachian Mountain Region with a species from our northwest coast appeared in the Arboretum a few years ago and has been called *P. splendens*. It is a large and vigorous shrub with unusually large flowers, and one of the handsomest of the *Syringas* in the collection. *P. maximus*, a supposed hybrid of *P. latifolius* from the southeastern United States and *P. tomentosus* from the Himalayas, grows to a larger size than any other of these plants. It is not rare in Massachusetts gardens in which plants from twenty to thirty feet high can occasionally be seen.

The crossing about thirty years ago by Lemoine of *P. coronarius* with *P. microphyllus* has produced an entirely new race of *Syringas*

which has proved to be one of the best additions to garden plants which has ever been made. The first plant obtained by this cross was called *P. Lemoinei*; it is a perfectly hardy shrub from four to six feet high and broad, with slender stems which bend under the weight of the countless flowers which are intermediate in size between those of the parents and retain the fragrance of those of *P. microphyllus*. There are at least a dozen distinct forms of this hybrid made by Lemoine, varying considerably in the size of the flowers and in the time of flowering. One of the handsomest of these plants, perhaps, is called *Candelabre*, which is a dwarf with flowers larger than those of either of its parents, an inch and a half wide, with petals notched on the margins and without the fragrance of its parents. Other distinct forms equally hardy and handsome are *Avalanche*, *Boule d'Argent*, *Bouquet Blanc*, *Erectus*, *Fantasie*, *Gerbe de Neige* and *Mont Blanc*.

Neillia sinensis. This is the only member of a genus of the Rose Family related to *Spiraea* which has flowered in the Arboretum. It is a native of western China where it was collected by Wilson and introduced into cultivation through the Arboretum. It is a tall hardy shrub with gracefully spreading and drooping branches, light green, incisely cut, pointed leaves from an inch and a half to two inches long, and clear pink flowers about half an inch in length, in short terminal racemes. It is one of the handsomest and most interesting of the hardy shrubs introduced by Wilson from western China.

Rosa Marretii is blooming remarkably this year. It is a tall, broad shrub with arching stems, pale green leaves and large pink flowers. It is a native of northern Hokkaido and of Saghalin where it was discovered by the late Abbé Faurie who sent seeds to the Arboretum in 1908. This plant, which is still rare in cultivation, promises to be a good addition to the single-flowered Roses which can be successfully grown in this climate. One of the hardiest and best growing of the new Roses, *Rosa bella*, was raised at the Arboretum from seeds collected by Purdom in northern China, and is a plant which when better known will be popular. It is a large shrub with bright red flowers an inch and a half in diameter, and bright red fruit. It is with the other Chinese plants on Bussey Hill.

Rosa multiflora cathayensis is again covered with its great clusters of pink flowers and expanding flower-buds. The Chinese representative of the white-flowered *R. multiflora* of Japan, it is one of the most beautiful Roses and interesting as the wild type from which the Chinese derived the now well known Crimson Rambler Rose and another old-fashioned garden Rose, the Seven Sisters Rose (*R. multiflora platyphylla*).

1924. "Philadelphus pekinensis." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 10(10), 39–40. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321479>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216912>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321479>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321479>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

Rights Holder: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.