

garian species which often does not bloom here until after the middle of June.

**Syringa oblata** was the first Lilac from eastern China to reach England where it was sent some sixty years ago by Robert Fortune who had found it in a Shanghai garden. It reached the United State certainly as early as 1869 and perhaps earlier. It is a round-topped shrub with heart-shaped leaves which, unlike those of other Lilacs, are thick and coriaceous and in the autumn turn scarlet. It is one of the first Lilacs to bloom in the spring here. This plant has not been found growing wild and there is no record that it has been seen by anyone in China since Fortune's time. It is probably a garden form of *S. affinis*, a white-flowered form commonly planted and probably the only Lilac in the gardens of Peking. Another form probably of *S. oblata* is the purple-flowered plant from northern China usually called the variety *Giraldii* of *S. affinis*. The Korean *S. dilatata* is probably also only a wild form of *S. oblata*. The two best known of the Lilacs of eastern Asia, *S. pubescens* and *S. villosa*, were raised here from seeds sent in 1883 by Dr. Bretschneider of the Russian Legation in Peking. *S. pubescens* is a tall shrub with erect stems, small leaves and broad clusters of small pale mauve flowers with a long slender corolla tube. For the fragrance of the flowers, which is more pungent and delightful than that of any other Lilac, *S. pubescens* should find a place in every northern garden. The plants in the United States have failed to produce seeds, and as this species is unusually difficult to increase by cuttings it has remained one of the rarest Lilacs in American gardens. *S. villosa* is a large, round-topped bush, from ten to twelve feet tall and wide, with large, broad, elliptic to oblong leaves bright green and dull on the upper surface and pale below, and broad or narrow clusters of flesh-colored or nearly white flowers which have a rather disagreeable odor like those of the Privet. In spite of this drawback *S. villosa* is a valuable plant; its habit is excellent, it flowers freely every year, and the flowers do not open until most of those of the other Lilacs have faded. Of the new Lilacs from western China and Korea raised from seeds collected by Wilson and other travelers the most promising are *S. Meyeri*, *S. microphylla*, *S. Julianae*, *S. tomentella*, *S. reflexa*, *S. Komarovii*, *S. Sweginzowii* and *S. dilatata*.

**Hybrid Lilacs.** The first hybrid Lilac appeared in the Botanic Garden in Rouen in 1810 and was the result of crossing *S. vulgaris* and *S. persica*. It is one of the most delightful of all Lilacs and grows into a bush ten or twelve feet high and broad and of rather open habit. It is very hardy and blooms freely every year, and should be in every garden where Lilacs are grown. Its flowers resemble those of the Persian Lilac and are produced in massive clusters sometimes two feet in length, and are so heavy that the slender branches can hardly support them. There are forms with darker red flowers and with nearly white flowers. Through a misunderstanding of its origin this plant unfortunately must be called *S. chinensis*.

The next hybrid Lilac to appear was *S. hyacinthiflora* which is the result of crossing *S. oblata* with *S. vulgaris coerulea plena*. It is a large, round-topped shrub of excellent habit, with leaves resembling in shape those of *S. oblata*, and small clusters of semi-double, extremely



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