

arching branches, and is perhaps the most beautiful Crabapple in the Arboretum. The tendency of *M. floribunda* to produce hybrids is well shown in one of the parks of the city of Rochester, N. Y., in which there are growing several trees raised from seeds gathered several years ago from one plant. These Rochester seedlings now produce abundant crops of fruit; this varies on different trees from the size of a small pea to an inch or an inch and a quarter in diameter. On some of the trees it is bright yellow, on others bright red and on others red and yellow. There is less difference in the flowers, but the leaves vary on the different plants in shape and in the absence of the covering of hairs. Most of these trees are worth descriptive names which have not yet been given to them, and show what endless work is before nurserymen who endeavor to raise Crabapples from the seeds of plants growing in large collections. *Malus atrosanguinea*, judging by its habit, is another hybrid of *M. floribunda*, from which it differs in the bright red color of the flowers. Very little is known about the origin of this plant. It is said to have originated in the Spath Nursery in Berlin, and has been growing since 1889 in the Arboretum when it was obtained from the Knaphill Nursery at Woking, England. There are two trees in the Peter's Hill group and they have never before been so beautiful, and no other Crabapple has such brilliant red flowers.

**Lilacs.** When the Arboretum was founded, in addition to *Syringa vulgaris* and its varieties, there were only in this country the Himalayan *S. emodi*, the Hungarian *S. Josikaea*, and the better known *S. persica*. There are now growing in the Arboretum twenty-five species of Lilacs and four hybrids and their forms. Three or four species found in remote parts of China and described by botanists have not yet been introduced into gardens, and by the use of some of the recently introduced species plant breeders may be able to produce new races which may add new and valuable varieties for the makers of gardens.

*Syringa persica* was known in England as early as 1658 and has been for a long time an inhabitant of American gardens. It is a beautiful hardy plant with slender, drooping, wide-spreading branches, narrower leaves than those of the common Lilacs and small, fragrant, lavender-colored flowers in short compact clusters. There is a variety with white flowers and another with lacinatedly lobed leaves. For years it was universally believed that because Linnaeus had named it *Syringa persica* that it was a native of Persia or of some country adjacent to Persia. Meyer collecting in China in 1915 found quantities of a Lilac covering hillsides in Kansu, and plants raised from seeds of this Lilac have flowered and proved identical with the lobed-leaf form of *S. persica*. As there is no wild specimen of the Persian Lilac in any of the great herbaria collected in Persia or other parts of western Asia it is probable that the Persian Lilac is really a Chinese plant which was early carried into the western part of the continent.

The first hybrid Lilac appeared in the Botanic Garden at Rouen in 1810, and was the result of crossing *Syringa vulgaris* and *S. persica*. It is one of the most valuable of all Lilacs and grows into a bush ten feet high and broad and of rather open habit. It is very hardy and blooms freely every year, and deserves a place in every garden where Lilacs are grown. The flowers resemble those of the Persian Lilacs,



but are longer and produced in massive clusters sometimes two feet in length and so heavy that the slender branches can hardly support them; they are reddish purple, and there are forms with darker red flowers and with nearly white flowers. This Lilac, which has often been called *Syringa rothomagensis*, unfortunately through a misunderstanding of its origin, must be called *S. chinensis* if the oldest name is used for it.

Among the twenty-three species of *Syringa* introduced by the Arboretum the most beautiful to many persons is *S. pubescens*, which was first raised in the Arboretum in 1883 from seeds sent by Dr. Bretschneider from Peking. It is a tall shrub with erect stems, small leaves and broad clusters of small, pale mauve flowers with a long slender corolla-tube. For its fragrance, which is more pungent and delightful than that of any other Lilac, *Syringa pubescens* should find a place in every northern garden. Plants in the United States have failed to produce seeds and as this species has proved unusually difficult to increase by cuttings it has remained one of the rarest Lilacs in American gardens. It can be increased by grafting, and sooner or later fertile seeds will be found on some of the large plants growing in the Arboretum. Dr. Bretschneider sent to the Arboretum at the same time seeds of *Syringa villosa*, another excellent garden plant. It 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 the rather disagreeable odor of those of the Privet. It blooms freely every year, and the flowers do not open until those of most of the other Lilacs have faded.

The hybrid *Syringa Henryi* was obtained by the French gardener Henry by crossing the Hungarian *S. Josikaea* with *S. villosa*. These are both late flowering species as is the hybrid between them. Plants of this hybrid are large, vigorous, perfectly hardy and grow rapidly. The leaves resemble those of *S. villosa*, but the flowers are violet-purple or reddish purple and arranged in clusters from twelve to fifteen inches long and broad. The handsomest perhaps of this race, which has been named "Lutèce," has deep violet-purple flowers and is one of the most beautiful of all Lilacs. "Eximia," another of these hybrids, has not grown here to as large a size as "Lutèce" but is one of the handsomest late flowering plants in the collection with reddish flowers which later become pink.

The greatest show of Lilacs will be at the end of the present week, but some of the species, especially the group of Tree Lilacs from China and Japan, will not be in bloom for two or three weeks.

The earliest of the Magnolias which flower after the leaves open, the American *Magnolia Fraseri*, is already in bloom, as are several of the Horse-chestnuts, including the American Ohio Buckeye, *Aesculus glabra*, and many American Hawthorns. Flowers still make some of the Amelanchiers and Plum-trees attractive, and probably the last two days of May and the first Sunday in June will see more flowers in the Arboretum than on any other days during the year.



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