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KNOW YOUR LILACS

Rochester and Monroe County is well known for its superb collection of lilacs at Highland Park. The common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, comes from southeastern Europe, where winter temperatures are similar to those of this area of New York State. It can grow to 20 feet tall. There are many hybrids of common lilac. Some of those highly recommended* are:

WHITE SINGLE FLOWERS	DOUBLE BLUE FLOWERS	SINGLE MAGENTA FLOWERS
Jan VanTol	Ami Schott	Captaine Baltet
Maud Notcutt	Olivier deSerres	Congo
Mont Blanc	President Grèvy	Madam F. Morel
Vestale		
VIOLET SINGLE FLOWERS	SINGLE LILAC FLOWERS	DOUBLE MAGENTA FLOWERS
Cavour	Cristophe Colomb	Charles Joly
DeMiribel	Jacques Callot	My Favorite
		Paul Thirion
		President Poincare
VIOLET DOUBLE FLOWERS	DOUBLE LILAC FLOWERS	PURPLE SINGLE FLOWERS
Maréchal Lannes	Alphonse Lavallee	Ludwig Spaeth
Violetta	Henri Martin	Monge
	Leon Gambetta	Mrs. W. E. Marshall
	Victor Lemoine	Night
WHITE DOUBLE FLOWERS	SINGLE PINK FLOWERS	Sensation
Edith Cavell	Charm	
Ellen Willmott	Lucil Baltet	
Madame Lemoine	Macrostachya	
Monique Lemoine	Mrs. Harry Bickle	
Saint Joan		
SINGLE BLUE FLOWERS	DOUBLE PINK FLOWERS	PURPLE DOUBLE FLOWERS
Dacaisne	Belle deNancy	Adelaide Dunbar
Firmament	Katherine Havemeyer	Anne Tighe
President Lincoln	Madame Antoine Buchner	Paul Hariot
	Montaigne	

DWARF LILACS: The dwarf lilacs come from two or three species. The Korean lilac (*Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin') is a hybrid and grows to a height of five feet and about five feet wide. It has lavender flowers and blooms later than common lilac.

"Miss Kim" is another Korean dwarf lilac that grows similar to "Palibin" but has fragrant flowers that are pink in bud and turn blue when opened. Persian lilac (*Syringa x persica*) grows from 6 to 10 feet tall. It has single fragrant lilac flowers.

TREE LILACS: Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*) can grow to a height of 30 feet. Its flowers are yellowish-white and it blooms during mid-June.

HARDY LILACS: All species mentioned above are hardy in the Rochester area. But "Preston" lilac (*Syringa prestoniae*) could be grown in northern New York State. "Isabella" is available from some nurseries. It grows to a height of nine feet and has pink buds opening to white-pink. It blooms about two weeks later than common lilac.

*From Hortus Third

4/2/84

Reviewed 4/94

Reviewed 8/04

FS 1321