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LILACS.

AT THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA, ONT.

THE lilacs or syringas are among the most valued of all shrubs for the garden. They are favorites everywhere and almost universally grown. Their hardiness commends them, for they thrive not only in Eastern Canada but many of them endure the colder winters of the North-West plains without injury. They are easily grown and the beauty and fragrance of their flowers, so freely produced in the early spring, and the richness of their foliage throughout the season, are qualities which make the lilacs deservedly popular.

This useful group of ornamental shrubs contains about ten species, seven or eight of which, with many splendid varieties which have been produced from some of them, are now more or less generally available for the decoration of our gardens.

The common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*,

was introduced to cultivation in 1597 and has hence been an object of admiration among lovers of flowers for more than 300 years. It is a native of Persia and Hungary, and when planted in good soil grows to a height of 10 to 15 and sometimes 20 feet. Although it suckers freely, if the suckers are persistently cut away it may be trained to a handsome tree-like form.

Lilacs may be propagated from suckers also by budding. They are sometimes grafted on the privet, but this stock is undesirable on account of its tenderness and lack of vigour. Of late years many of the best varieties have been grown from cuttings which, when placed under suitable conditions, are said to root without much difficulty. Lilacs on their own roots are much to be preferred since when grafted on the common stock the suckers thrown up from the roots are sometimes so numerous and vigorous as to crowd out or weaken the graft.