

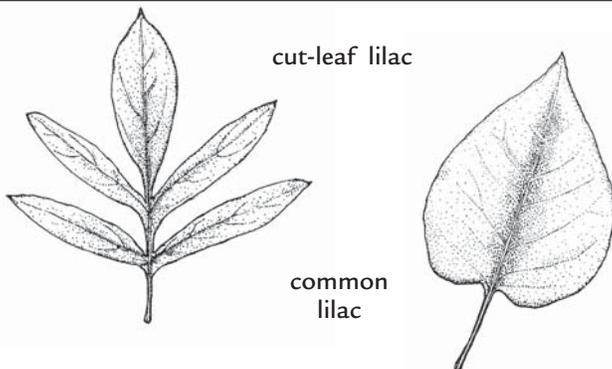
Lilac

Syringa spp.

The *Syringa* (lilac) collection at the Arnold Arboretum is famous for the display of blossoms that delight spring visitors with both sights and scents. Within the collection is a wide variety of leaf shape, flower color, form, and fragrance. Plants in the lilac collection are in bloom from approximately the beginning of May until early June.

Numbers on the map (see back) correspond to plants that are included in our more extensive self-guided lilac tour. Beginning in early May these plants are marked with signs. While exploring, please remember that the Arboretum's plants are part of a special collection; it is therefore not permitted to pick flowers, leaves, or fruits, or to climb trees.

Did you know, although lilacs have been in North America since the 1600's, there are no native lilacs.



What shape is a lilac leaf?

We often think of a lilac leaf as being heart-shaped, but not all lilac leaves are the same.

Compare these plants:

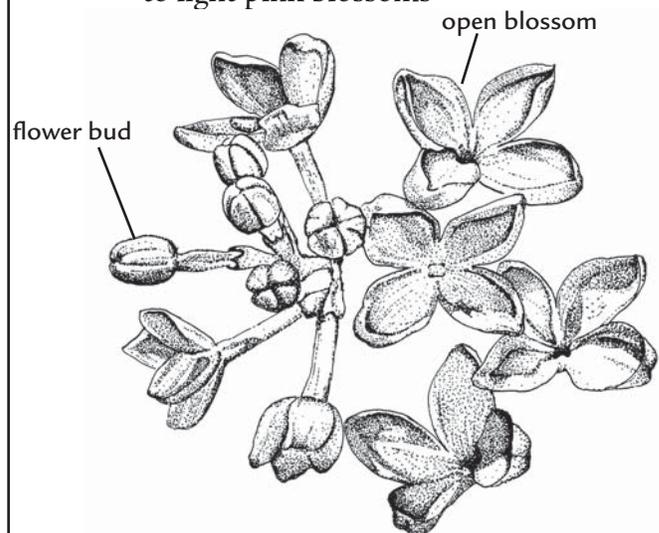
- #8 'Hulda' (common lilac)
- #17 'Kabul' (cut-leaf or fern-leaf lilac)

Are the flowers open or closed?

Observe the difference between a flower bud and an open blossom.

Compare these plants:

- #9 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y' (notice the dark pink buds that open to white blossoms)
- #10 'Bailbelle' (Tinkerbelle) (notice the dark pink buds that open to light pink blossoms)



How many different colors of lilac flowers can you find?

Not all lilacs are purple. Throughout the collection, notice the variety of colors, including white, pink, light purple, dark purple, and blue-purple.

Compare these plants:

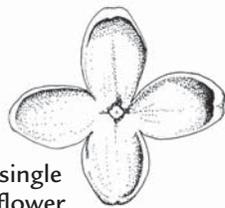
- #11 'President Lincoln' (blue flowers)
- #12 'Sister Justina' (white flowers)

How many petals does a lilac flower have?

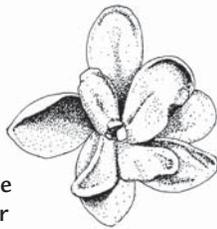
Most lilacs have flowers with four petals; these lilacs are said to have a single flower form. Other lilacs have eight or more petals and are said to have a double flower form.

Compare these plants:

- #4 'Cheyenne'
(4 petals, single flower form)
- #1 'St. Margaret'
(8 or more petals, double flower form)



single
flower
form



double
flower
form

A lilac to color.

