

LOLA FLACK LILAC COLLECTION

species

cultivar

floret form/color code size bloom time

breeder date

remarks Late Lilac, a single pink, was discovered in the mountains around Beijing by botanist-missionary Pierre d'Incarville in the mid 18th century. A wonderful lilac in its own right, *S. villosa* is prized by hybridizers for a whole new series of later blooming cultivars. Isabella Preston and Frank Skinner originally worked with the species and more recently Owen Rogers of the University of New Hampshire has produced some exceptional hybrids.

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Floret Form
S Single
D Double

Wister Color Code
I white
II violet
III blue
IV lavender
V pink
VI magenta
VII purple



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remarks Rouen Lilac. Blooming about the same time as *vulgaris*, the
Common Lilac, *xchinensis* has smaller leaves and its flowers,
while delicate, are perhaps even more abundant. A non-
suckering species, it is believed to be a naturally occurring
cross between *S. laciniata* and *S. vulgaris* L. See Susan
McKelvey's lengthy treatment in The Lilac.

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 Discovered in Gansu Province, China by plant explorer Frank Meyer (he of *Syringa meyeri* fame) in 1915, this species was first thought to be a variety of *Syringa persica*. Later on, it was determined that this cut-leaf form is the true species and that the plant formerly known as Persian Lilac is a hybrid of *S. laciniata* and another unknown species, possibly *S. oblata*. Many believe the the hybrid is more attractive than its parent. Fiala, in his philosophical style, writes, "How often, *mon ami*, the child surpasses the parent!" Cut-Leaf Lilac along with *S. vulgaris* are the parents of the *xchinensis* hybrids.
 With lavender-purple buds opening to paler lavender blooms.

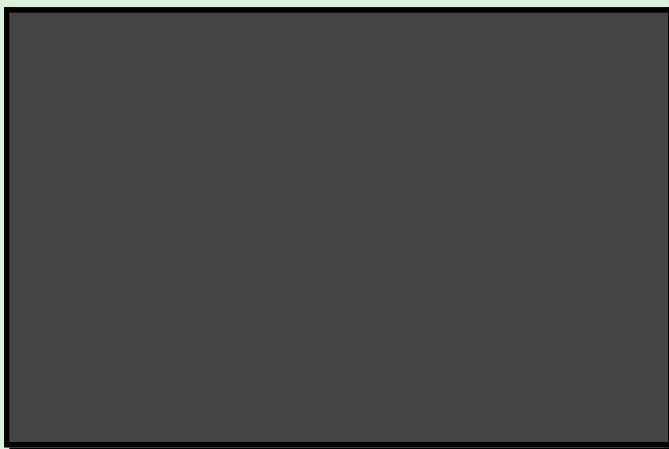
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**Wister
Color Code**

I	white
II	violet
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V	pink
VI	magenta
VII	purple



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remarks *(S. vulgaris* X *S. oblata dilatata)*. One of the first two hybrids...
 created by renowned Canadian breeder Dr. Frank Leith...
 Skinner from *S. oblata* seedlings given to him in 1917 by...
 Sargent at the Arnold Arboretum.
 Named for Aseissippi Parkland in western Manitoba.

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LOLA FLACK LILAC COLLECTION

species **xhyacinthiflora**

cultivar **Declaration**

floret form/color code **S VI-VII** size **8.5x 6.75** bloom time **early**

breeder **Donald Egolf/Margaret Pooler** date **2006**

remarks *[S. xhyacinthiflora 'Sweet Charity' x S. xhyacinthiflora 'Pocahontas']*
 "Declaration' is a selection from a controlled hybridization made by Don Egolf in 1978. It is the product of the lilac hybridization program at the U.S. National Arboretum. [It was] selected for its large fragrant striking dark reddish-purple inflorescences and upright growth habit."
 FROM THE U.S. ARBORETUM PLANT INTRODUCTION FACT SHEET
 photo: U.S. National Arboretum

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LOLA FLACK LILAC COLLECTION

species *xhyacinthiflora* (Lemoine) Rehder

cultivar Esther Staley

floret form/color code S/V size bloom time early

breeder Clarke date 1948

remarks Bred from *S. ablata* by Walter Bosworth Clarke, who developed spectacular early blooming lilacs in the '30s and '40s. 'Esther Staley' is "heavy blooming lilac-pink, outstanding in bloom, tall grower. Named to honor Mrs. Esther Staley, Riverbank, California, who pioneered the introduction of many garden plants in the San Joaquin Valley." (Fiala, *Lilacs*, 206). Even if you don't like pink, this lilac will win your heart. Jack Alexander, long-time lilac maven and curator of the collection at the Arnold Arboretum, credits 'Esther Staley' for initiating his obsession. Recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit, 1961.

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remarks Called the "Grand-dame of Hybrids" by Father Fiala, Isabella Preston was the first to cross *S. villosa* with *S. reflexa* and so developed a new race of lilacs—the Prestonian Hybrids. Blooming slightly later than the Common Lilac, *S. prestoniae* cultivars have unique flowers, foliage, and scent. They are a vital component of any collection and Lola Flack has three. 'Isabella' is the first named cultivar of Prestons. It was described by McKelvey after she visited Preston at the Central Experimental Farm on Ottawa and as such is the type specimen and is named in honor of its breeder. RHS Award of Merit, 1941.

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LOLA FLACK LILAC COLLECTION

species **xjosiflexa Preston ex J.S. Pringle**

cultivar **Jesse Hepler**

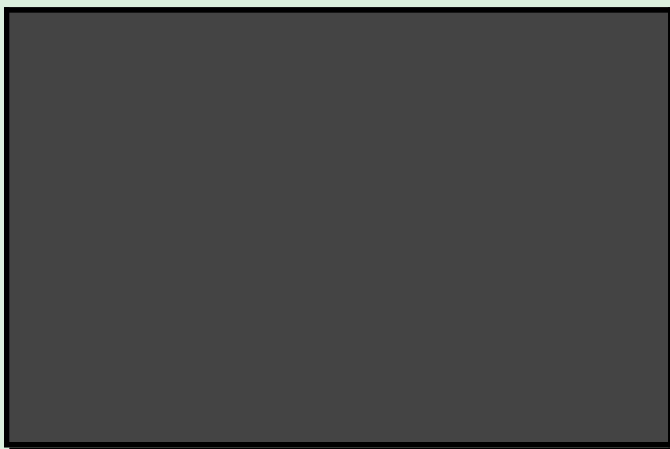
floret form/color code **S/VI** size bloom time **late**

breeder **Rogers** date **1978**

remarks Hybridized by one of the greatest modern breeders, Dr. Owen Rogers of the University of New Hampshire, 'Jesse Hepler' traces its heritage back to 'Royalty' itself a hybrid of *S. josikaea* and *S. reflexa*. There has been some confusion in the literature regarding the classification of this species, but in correspondence with me, Owens makes it clear that his cultivar is, in fact, *Xjosiflexa*. Although the arboretum's specimen of 'Jesse Hepler' is in quite a bit of shade, it manages to bloom quite well. Look for it at the east edge of the collection. Named for a University of New Hampshire horticulture professor, Jesse Raymond Heppler.

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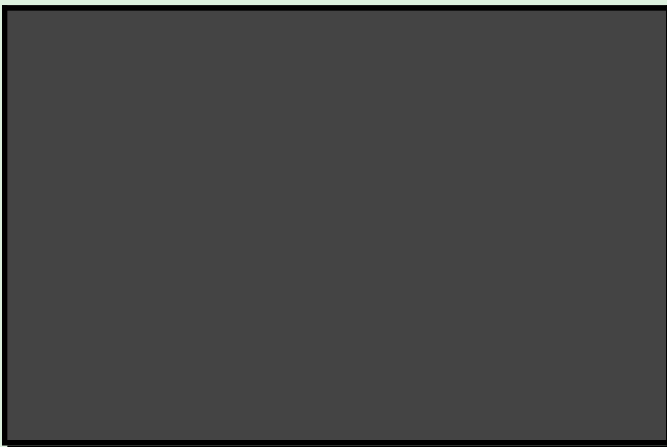
species

cultivar

floret form/color code size bloom time

breeder date

remarks "Lilac cultivars may be selected for fragrance, color, and abundance of flower. 'Lilac Sunday' was chosen for all these traits but even more for its very attractive habit." So writes John H. Alexander, former Plant Propagator at the Arnold Arboretum and the man who selected this seedling. It was grown from seed he had requested from the Chinese Botanical Academy. He continues, "The plant that bears the name of the Arboretum's annual celebration must be special.... Truly the cultivar 'Lilac Sunday' is special, as became clear from comments made by staff members.... I planted [it] in a prominent spot [and] watched and waited. I soon learned that I was not alone in falling victim to the charms of 'Lilac Sunday.'"



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remarks From Lemoine's Cat. no. 198, 20 (1924-1925): "This superb novelty was pronounced by that expert horticulturalist, the late Félix Crousse, to be the handsomest of all single Lilacs. The high panicles, carried by long straight stems, are truly immense and very light; the individual flowers, perfectly shaped, are of a bright carmine rose with a pink eye when opening, contrasting with the mauve of the older flowers and the deep carmine of the buds; early. Will create a sensation among Lilac lovers."
Named for the commander of allied forces in WWI.
RHS Award of Merit, 1935.

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remarks Bred by Lemoine from 'Marie Legraye' and an unknown double cultivar. 'Mme. Lemoine' is "a most satisfactory double white form and a dependable bloomer" (McKelvey, 336), although Wister and others believe that 'Edith Cavell' is a superior plant. Compare the collection's two cultivars and see what you think. 'Mme. Lemoine' is a taller cultivar. RHS Award of Merit 1891, Award of Garden Merit 1937, First Class Certificate 1897.

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remarks Sold under the name 'BLUE SKIES'®, the cultivar 'Monore' is a seedling of *S. vulgaris* 'Esther Staley' that was found by Ralph S. Moore at Sequoia Nursery in California. The parent 'Esther Staley' was growing in a grouping with two blue *vulgaris* cultivars, 'President Lincoln' and 'Andeken an Ludwig Spaeth,' one of which is presumed to be the other parent. 'Monore' is known for its ability to bloom at an early age with a two-toned effect of purple buds opening to deep purple blue flowers and for its good performance in warmer winter areas. The cultivar has been propagated by Monrovia nursery and is sold by them.

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remarks "What lilac connoisseur has not marvelled at the shades of Lemoine's marvelous deep red-budded 'Paul Thirion' as it unfolds from red to delicate shades of pink petticoats." Clearly a marvel. Father John Fiala, *Lilacs*, 87). This is a cultivar that everyone seems to agree is exceptional: "A superb lilac of splendid growth" (Harding), "A superb late flowering sort" (Havemeyer). Clearly superb. I am not partial to the doubles, but I even I can't resist the profusion of bloom by the three plants in the Flack collection. Named for the famous French horticulturist, First Vice President of the Société Centrale d'Horticulture de Nancy and Secretary of the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France (1873-1925). RHS AM 1927, AGM 1969.

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species ***xhyacinthiflora* (Lemoine) Rehder**

cultivar **Pocahontas**

floret form/color code **S/VII** size **to 10x10'** bloom time **early**

breeder **Skinner** date **1935**

remarks
 Pollen parent *S. oblata* var. *dilatata*... Seed parent unknown...
S. vulgaris cultivar... Skinner began experimenting with the
 lower growing *dilatata* variety in the early 1920s, giving us
 some exceptional *hyacinthiflora* cultivars including
 'Pocahontas.' Fiala believes these crosses are superior to
 those made earlier by Lemoine using *S. oblata* 'Gibaldi.'
 Skinner called his plants American Hybrids but they are now
 usually called Early Hybrids as they bloom around two weeks
 before the common lilacs. Use them to extend the bloom
 season, but avoid frost pockets when siting these plants so
 that they don't get "nipped in the bud."

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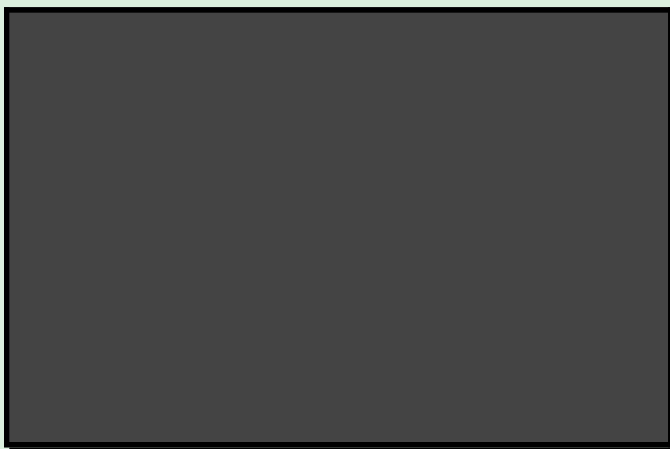
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remarks [This unique lilac is a show stopper wherever it is grown, but it is more than just a novelty. Created by the famous Dutch breeder, Dirk Eveleens Maarse, 'Sensation' is a sport of 'Hugo de Vries'. Maarse specialized in heat forcing lilacs to create bud mutations. He continued this work well into his nineties. 'Sensation' is one of his better known sports (mutations), although the yellow blooming 'Primrose' has been popular as well. Some gardeners always seem to want that which is most difficult to obtain. Perhaps they are not unique in such desires. Asked why he was able to introduce so many great sports compared to other growers, Maarse responded: "Because I look a little longer at my lilacs and at the whole plant. I spend more time looking and thinking"

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