Philadelphus, unfortunately called Syringa in popular language for Syringa is the scientific name of the Lilacs, is flowering rather earlier than usual this year. There is a good collection of these plants in the Arboretum, and the group is the largest here of the shrubs which flower in June. Philadelphus is a widely distributed genus with representatives in North America in the southern states, the southern Rocky Mountain region and the Pacific States, in Japan, Korea, China, on the Himalayas and in eastern Europe. The white and usually fragrant flowers are the only attraction of these plants; they are not interesting in habit; the leaves fall in the autumn without change of color, and the fruit, which is a dry capsule, is smaller than that of the Lilac. During the last twenty years several new species of this genus have been introduced into gardens from eastern Asia, and plant-breeders have made more valuable contributions to few groups of garden plants than to Philadelphus. Most Syringas bloom freely every year; they require rich well drained soil, and the presence of lime in it has no bad effects on them. Better than most shrubs they can grow and flower in shade, and are therefore valuable for undergrowth in border plantations of trees. There are now in the collection some thirty species with a few varieties and several hybrids.

The Mock Orange of all old gardens is Syringa coronarius, the eastern European species. The plant was first cultivated in England before the end of the sixteenth century and was probably one of the first garden shrubs brought to America by the English settlers. It is a medium-sized species often as broad as high. The flowers, too, are of
medium size and faintly tinged with yellow. This shrub has been somewhat neglected since species and hybrids with larger and showier flowers have found their way into gardens. This is unfortunate, for no other Syringa equals the old-fashioned Mock Orange in the delicate perfume of its flowers. Varieties of this plant with yellow leaves, with double flowers, and with narrow willow-like leaves can be seen in the Arboretum collection, but none of them have any particular decorative value. Among the American species which should find a place in all gardens are \textit{P. inodorus}, \textit{P. pubescens}, and \textit{P. microphyllus}. The first is a native of the Appalachian Mountain region and grows to the height of six feet; it has arching branches and large, solitary, pure white, cup-shaped, scentless flowers. By some persons it is considered the most beautiful of all Syringas. \textit{P. pubescens}, often called \textit{P. grandiflorus} or \textit{P. latifolius}, is also a plant of the southern Appalachian region. It often grows to the height of twenty feet; the branches are stout and erect; the leaves are broad, and the slightly fragrant flowers are arranged in erect, from five- to ten-flowered racemes. This plant is more common in gardens than the last and when it is in bloom it makes a great show. \textit{P. microphyllus}, which rarely grows more than three feet tall, has slender stems, and leaves and flowers smaller than those of any Philadelphus in cultivation. What the flowers lack in size, however, is made up in fragrance which is stronger than that of any other Syringa and perfumes the air for a long distance. Unfortunately this shrub, which is one of the most attractive plants of the genus, is not always entirely hardy and was killed to the ground last winter in the Arboretum.

The most distinct and perhaps the handsomest of the Asiatic species in the Arboretum is \textit{Philadelphus purpurascens}, discovered by Wilson in western China. It is a large shrub with long arching stems from which rise numerous branchlets from four to six inches long and spreading at right angles; on these branchlets the flowers are borne on drooping stalks; they are an inch and a half long, with a bright purple calyx and pure white petals which do not spread as they do on most of the species but form a bell-shaped corolla and are exceedingly fragrant. This is one of the handsomest of the shrubs brought from western China to the Arboretum. \textit{Philadelphus Magdalenae} is another Chinese species well worth cultivation. It is a tall broad shrub with arching stems, small dark green leaves and pure white fragrant flowers an inch and a quarter in diameter and arranged in drooping, leafy, many-flowered clusters from six to ten inches in length. \textit{Philadelphus pekinensis} from northern China and Mongolia is a stout bush rather broader than high which every year produces great quantities of small flowers tinged with yellow. Another interesting garden plant, \textit{P. Falconeri}, which is certainly Asiatic and probably Japanese, has narrow lanceolate leaves and fragrant flowers in from one- to six-flowered racemes, and is distinct in the shape of its leaves and in its long narrow petals. The origin and history of this plant is not known.

\textbf{Hybrid Philadelphus.} The first hybrid Philadelphus which attracted attention was raised in France before 1870 by a Monsieur Billard, and is sometimes called in gardens \textit{Souvenir de Billard}, although the correct
name for it is *Philadelphus insignis*. This hybrid is one of the hand-
somest of all the tall-growing Syringas, and its value is increased by
the fact that it is one of the latest of them all to flower. In a few
old gardens in the neighborhood of Boston great Syringa-bushes occa-
sionally thirty feet high and correspondingly broad are sometimes found.
These plants are believed to be hybrids between *P. coronarius* and
some unrecognized species. They are called *Philadelphus maximus*.
Another hybrid, *P. splendens*, sprang up in the Arboretum several
years ago and is supposed to be a hybrid between two American spe-
cies, *P. inodorus* and *P. pubescens*. It is a large and shapely shrub
with pure white only slightly fragrant flowers an inch and three-quar-
ters in diameter and borne in erect clusters. *Philadelphus splendens*
usually flowers very freely and when the flowers are open it is the
showiest plant in the Syringa Group. It is not, however, as thickly
covered with flowers this year as usual.

**Lemoine Hybrid Philadelphus.** These are among the most beautiful
and interesting additions to summer-flowering shrubs, due to the intel-
ligence and skill of the great French plant-breeders. The first of these
hybrids, *Philadelphus Lemoinei*, was obtained by crossing the European
*P. coronarius* and the Rocky Mountain *P. microphyllus*. This plant is
intermediate between its parents in size and in the size of the flowers.
The flowers are pure white, very fragrant and produced in the greatest
profusion. Lemoine then crossed his *P. Lemoinei* with other species
and obtained remarkable results. By using *P. pubescens* or some re-
lated species as the other parent he obtained a race to which the name
*P. cymosus* has been given. The plant named "Conquête" may be
considered the type of this race. It is a vigorous, hardy plant with
flowers from two to two and a half inches in diameter, and only sur-
passed in size by those of "Rosace" of this race, and a beautiful and
desirable garden ornament. There is a good specimen in the
Shrub Collection. Other plants of this race are "Mer de Glace," "Norma," "Nuée Blanche," "Rosace," "Voie Lactée" and "Perle Blanche." By crossing *P. Lemoinei* with the hybrid *P. insignis* Le-
moine obtained the race to which the general name of *P. polyanthus*
has been given. Well known forms of this race are "Gerbe de Neige" and "Pavillon Blanc." Another of these hybrid races created by Le-
moine is called "P. virginalis;" of doubtful origin it is distinguished
by double racemose flowers. The type of this group is "Virginal," and
other varieties referred to it are "Argentina," "Glacier," and "Bouquet Blanc."

**Crataegus Phaenopyrum**, the Washington Thorn, better known per-
haps as *C. cordata*, is a member of the small group of Macrocarpae,
distinguished by the principal veins extending to the sinuses of the
leaves as well as to the points of the lobes, flowers with twenty sta-
mens, rose-colored or yellow anthers and red fruit not more than a
quarter of an inch long. To this group belong in addition to the three
species of the southern United States the two common species of west-
ern Europe, *C. oxyacantha* and *C. monogyna*, now often cultivated in
this country in many forms. *Crataegus Phaenopyrum* is a tree up to
thirty feet in height with a trunk a foot in diameter, and erect branches
forming a comparatively narrow or round-topped head. The leaves are broad-ovate to nearly triangular, long-pointed, more or less incisely or three-lobed, dark green and very lustrous above, and pale below up to two inches in length, turning late in the autumn bright scarlet and orange. The flowers open here early in June after the leaves are fully grown and are about half an inch in diameter, creamy white with rose-colored anthers, and are arranged in compact, many-flowered corymbs. The fruit is scarlet and lustrous, and ripening late in September or in October retains its color and remains on the branches until the spring of the following year. The Washington Thorn is the last of the American species to flower in the Arboretum. The flowers are less beautiful than those of most Hawthorns, but the plant is valuable for the remarkable coloring of the leaves in autumn and for the brilliant and persistent fruit. Nowhere very common, this tree grows naturally in a few isolated stations from western North Carolina, through Tennessee and Kentucky to southern Illinois and southern Missouri, and is now often naturalized in the middle and Ohio valley states.

**Late Flowering Magnolias.** The Sweet Bay, *Magnolia virginiana*, or as it is more often called, *M. glauca*, opened its fragrant cup-shaped flowers ten days ago and will continue to open them until midsummer. The leaves, which are dark green above and silvery white below, and more beautiful than those of almost any other plant which is hardy in this climate, remain on the branches without change of color until the beginning of winter; and the perfume of the flowers is more penetrating and delightful than that of any of our native trees and shrubs. A plant for every garden, great or small, how often is the Sweet Bay found in those of modern construction? *Magnolia macrophylla* flowers a few days later than *M. virginiana*, and is the last of the genus to open its flowers here. It is a wonderful tree with leaves silvery white on the lower surface and often thirty inches long and ten inches wide, and flowers a foot in diameter. A southern tree with its northern stations in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and in Kentucky, it is perfectly hardy in eastern Massachusetts, although here as elsewhere the great leaves are often torn by wind unless a sheltered position is selected for it. *Magnolia macrophylla* is a distinct and beautiful tree, and is interesting in the fact that its leaves and flowers are larger than those of any other which grows in extra tropical regions.

**Eleagnus angustifolius.** A tree with silvery white foliage can sometimes be mixed with advantage with dark-leaved trees to produce contrast in the landscape, and for this purpose no tree which is hardy here at the north is so well suited as the Oleaster, as *Eleagnus angustifolia* is sometimes called. A native of southern Europe and western Asia, it is a tree sometimes thirty feet high, or a large arborescent shrub, with erect and spreading, sometimes spiny branches, and narrow lanceolate leaves up to three or four inches in length. The fragrant flowers are produced in few-flowered clusters in the axils of the young shoots and are nearly half an inch in length with a bell-shaped tube and four spreading lobes. The fruit is oval, half an inch long, yellowish and covered with silvery scales; the flesh is sweet and mealy. The large plants of the Oleaster on the left hand side of the Bussey Hill Road are now covered with flowers.