The renowned lilac collection (*Syringa* spp.) at the Arnold Arboretum holds 407 lilac plants representing 173 cultivars. The lilac collection 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 shapes, flower color, form, and fragrance.

Plants in the lilac collection are in bloom for four weeks from approximately the beginning of May until early June. Many of these are cultivars or varieties, selected for horticultural merits such as flower size, fragrance, color and overall growth habit. Others are the parents of many of today’s hybrids.

Although lilacs have been in North America since the 1600’s, there are no native lilacs. They are native to Asia and southeastern Europe. Lilacs were some of the first cultivated plants to be grown at the Arnold Arboretum.