



The Pipeline

Editor: Mrs. Isabel Zucker, 708 West Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 48013

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THE NEXT ANNUAL--The Holiday Inn at Glen Ellyn, IL has been selected as headquarters for the May, 1975 annual meeting. According to Mr. Eickhorst's office this hotel seems best from many angles--bus service, parking, etc. A pre-registration slip will be mailed to you soon.

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COMMENTS ON FALL FERTILIZATION--by Albert E. Lumly

There is no question in my mind but that lilacs do a lot of growing during the cool and cold weather in the fall and spring when other plants are really dormant. These facts have been learned by me in a practical way.

During October, 1974 I put 30 pounds of 5-year-old horse manure on all of my plants. They range from 20 to 2 years old. This treatment has worked well for me in the past. (Since I have an acid, gravel soil with excellent drainage I do not use chemical fertilizers as they would just leach out.) My plants respond to this manure treatment by producing large leaves of good color and flowers in the spring that seem to have better color than many I have seen.

I cannot help but feel that one of the keys to my success is planting-hole preparation which takes a lot of work but does produce results. Considering my soil's excellent drainage, I like to have something at the 2-foot-deep level that will tend to hold moisture and, at the same time, be there if the plant roots grow down that deep. My favorite substance for this use is household garbage, but I also use cow, horse or chicken droppings as well as dead fish or animals that are sometimes available, as well as lime and sod at this lower level.

An example of the results: Dr. John Wister said that he had never seen a really yellow Primrose lilac before. Other colors are also brighter than I can find in many of the plants in arboretums.

(Editor's note: There seems little doubt that fertilizing with organic materials produces better flower color in lilacs. The question is where do you get these materials? Who else but Mr. Lumly has 5-year-old horse manure available?)

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ON EXTENDING THE FLOWERING SEASON--by J. Herbert Alexander

Many home gardeners have no idea that lilacs are available in earlier, later and very late flowering seasons, as well as the French hybrid flowering season.

For years, it has been my personal opinion that, if lilac breeders worked to extend the flowering season, it could be a worthy accomplishment. When Annabell, developed by one of my friends and customers, blossomed earlier than any lilac we grew, we became interested in breeding for more "earlies".

Annabell and the following lilacs flower earlier than the French hybrids: Necker, Turgot, Esther Staley, Pink Mist. There also are other early-blooming sorts. We also have an early white.

At the other end of the season, few folks realize that Anna Amhoff is a mighty good late-flowering lilac, developed at the U of New Hampshire by Prof. Meader, now retired and living in Rochester, N. H.

To extend the flowering season later than the Preston hybrids, we now have 307 seedlings progressing, of *Syringa pekinensis*, the tree lilac from China. They have cream-yellow flowers a week or 10 days after the Preston hybrids have finished. Three of this batch of seedlings have much larger foliage and we hope will have larger flowers. We also hope that we may increase the cream or yellow colors. Time will tell.

(Editor's note: J. Herbert Alexander's lilac introductions are late-bloomers, selections from crosses of Ethel M. Webster x James McFarlane or the reciprocal cross, J. M. x E. M. W., and include a lilac with variegated leaves. For descriptions, address him at Middleboro, Mass. 02346.)

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PRINTED MATTER

Lilacs
J.H.A.

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