

VOL.4, 1975

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY, INC.

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

# LILACS



A publication of

## THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

## OFFICERS:

President	Dr. Robert Clark
Exec. Vice-President	William Utley
Treasurer	Marie Chaykowski
Secretary	Walter Oakes
Recording Secretary	Lois Utley
Editor/Publications	John L. Fiala

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term ending May 1978	John Alexander III Don Egolf Alvin Grant Albert Lumley Clare Short Orville Steward Lois Utley Lourene Wishart
Term ending May 1977	Marie Chaykowski Walter Eichhorst Nancy Emerson H.V. Hilton Joel Margaretten Franklin Niedz Radcliffe Pike Freek Vrugtman
Term ending May 1976	Robert B. Clark John L. Fiala Charles Holetich Walter Oakes Owen Rogers William Utley John Wister Isabel Zucker
Continuing Directors:	W. Bugala (Poland) Peter Green (England) A. Gromov (U.S.S.R.) Zelimir Sahin (The Netherlands) Claude Weber (Switzerland)

## HONOARY LIFETIME DIRECTORS

Louise Wilder  
Fred Van Orden  
Bernard Harkness

LILACS is the official publication of the International Lilac Society. Proceedings published annually- Research publications as received. Individual dues \$5.  
Editor: John L. Fiala, 7359 Branch Rd., Medina, Ohio 44256

Copyright 1975 Editor, I.L.S.

Col. Wm. Plum in his lilacs - front cover

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY AWARDS- MAY 1975

The following Awards were presented at the Awards Banquet of the 1975 Convention, Chicago, Illinois:

TO THE MORTEN ARBORETUM, Lisle, Illinois-

The "PRESIDENT'S AWARD" for promoting, research in, and fostering the LILAC with an extensive collection for public viewing.

For educating the public in the use of LILACS in landscaping and promoting the growing of LILACS in the Mid-West.

TO THE LOMBARD PARK DISTRICT, Lombard, Illinois-

THE "PRESIDENT'S AWARD" For maintaining a truly outstanding collection of LILACS...

For promoting the LILAC annually with a truly international LILAC Pageant and public display...

For educating the public in the care, landscaping and beauty of the LILAC.

For maintaining the bequest on behalf of LILACS of the late Col. Wm. Plum in a truly outstanding collection.

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENTED THE SOCIETY'S SPECIAL "AWARD OF MERIT"-

To: WALTER E. EICKHORST, Curator of Cultivated Plants, Morten Arboretum, For dedicated work in promoting the LILAC in a nationally known collection..

For outstanding service to the SOCIETY as a Director and For promoting research into the diseases of LILACS.

To: MITCHEAL KATNIK, Superintendent of Parks, Lombard Park District, Lombard, Illinois

For outstanding supervision and care of a world famous LILAC collection of the Lombard Parks in memory of Col. Wm. Plum and continuing his dedication and love of LILACS.

For promoting the LILAC in the Annual LILAC Festival and celebration..bringing the beauty of LILACS to the public.

To: CANTIGNY MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS, Wheaton, Ill.,

For its outstanding use of lilacs in a major landscaping of historical and horticultural significance and beauty.

To: ARCH McKEAN, Elmhurst, Illinois, For outstanding de-

dedication to the LILAC and for his contribution of land and LILACS to the City of Elmhurst for a LILAC WALK to promote the LILAC in landscaping and for public viewing.

- To: ISABEL ZUCKER, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan-  
For outstanding and dedicated work to the LILAC SOCIETY  
as a Director and promoter of LILACS...  
For outstanding work in promoting as First Editor of  
"The Pipeline", LILAC Newsletter, as an educational  
source of the Society.
- To: DR. JOEL MARGARETTEN, Leona Valley, California,  
For dedicated work as a Director of the Society and a  
promoter of LILACS throughout the Pacific Coast and Far  
West...  
For researching the needs of LILACS under difficult  
climatic circumstances.
- To: CLARE E. SHORT, Elyria, Ohio- For outstanding dedi-  
cation in promoting the LILAC with an outstanding collect-  
ion for public viewing...  
For making available to the public the introductions and  
collection of the late Dr. John Rankin...  
For fostering a LILAC plant exchange for service to the  
Society as a member of the Board of Directors.
- To: THE INTERSTATE NURSERIES and the SJULIN FAMILY,  
Hamburg, Iowa, For promoting newer forms of LILACS in the  
nursery trade...  
For commercial excellence in growing, promoting LILACS  
and making them available to the public.

## LILAC DISEASES

By Dr. Donald F. Schoeneweiss

Ladies and gentlemen — I'm pleased to be here today and to be first on the program, although I had to get up at five this morning to get here in time.

Fortunately for you as growers, and perhaps unfortunately for me as a pathologist, diseases of lilacs in Illinois are not quite as big a problem as the insect pests. Dr. Appleby will cover these quite adequately in the next presentation. I would like to register two complaints about this meeting: one is that, in spite of the beautiful weather today, the lilacs here are late in blooming. Ours at Urbana are in full bloom now. The other complaint is that the severe pruning done recently on the Arboretum's lilac collections eliminated any diseased material that could be used for demonstration purposes. In going through the collections this morning I could find only two very small specimens from one plant with disease symptoms. Therefore, we will have to depend pretty much on what slide material I have for visual aids in looking at a few of the lilac diseases. Many of these slides have been borrowed from other people, since I have not done that much work on lilac diseases except for powdery mildew. I would like to leave some time for questions if I may, although there will be a question fielding session later.

If we could now have the slides I'd like to take a look at several of the more common diseases we find on lilac. The first and perhaps the most important one is bacterial blight, caused by the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringea*. In general the symptoms resemble those of fire blight, which is also a bacterial disease. Bacterial blight is probably the most common disease of lilac in this part of the country. The initial symptoms on the new foliage are water-soaked leaf blotches. A bit later, the inflorescences may turn limp and dark brown. I have two specimens that I picked up this morning which I believe are very early stages of bacterial blight; any of you who may wish can look at them later. Inflorescences and flower buds may also turn black. On the young shoot, early symptoms may be a black striping around the shoot or a blackening of one side of the shoot. As you can see on these slides, the discoloration does not really extend very far; it's mostly a blighting of the leaves and young shoots. I want to emphasize this fact because there is another disease which is quite similar to bacterial blight. The bacteria may enter the plant either through the leaves or through stomates or lenticels on the young shoots. It is strictly a disease of moist, mild weather, and usually appears in the spring of the year. To control bacterial blight, one of the methods is to thin out stems to provide better air circulation. Since this is a bacterial disease which can enter wounds, a good practice is to sterilize pruning tools frequently in either a strong bleach or alcohol solution if bacterial blight is present. Another characteristic is that the bacteria ooze out of infected tissues during extreme wet weather, and I usually like to suggest that pruning during wet conditions be avoided if a bacterial disease is involved, since bacteria are easily spread at that time. You should also avoid the use of high nitrogen fertilizers since these cause an excess of succulent growth which is quite susceptible to bacterial infection. As far as spray controls are concerned, we have really cut down on spray recommendations in recent years because of new pesticide laws and regulations. The only one I find now listed which is cleared for use on lilacs is Bordeaux mixture. It should be used at the rate of 2-2-50 (2 pounds of copper sulfate, 2 pounds of hydrated lime, 50 gallons of water), and should be applied when blight symptoms first appear.

Another disease which is quite similar and sometimes confused with bacterial blight is *Phytophthora* blight. Three species: *P. syringea*, *P. cactorum*, and *P. citricola* have been reported as causing *Phytophthora* blight. The only slide I have shows a very early stage of infection. The disease is similar to bacterial blight except that the lesions are brown rather than black and the extent of killing is much greater than with bacterial blight. Shoots are often killed to the ground line and root sprouts may be blackened and killed. *Phytophthoras* are commonly soil-borne fungi but

attack the above ground parts of lilac. It is supposedly a wet weather disease, although severe damage often shows up following drought periods. I suspect that the pathogens may invade the plants during wet weather but the plants become more susceptible to colonization by the pathogens when they are under stress due to drought conditions, resulting in more disease development at that time. Both bacterial blight and *Phytophthora* blight symptoms are similar to those resulting from high nitrogen fertilizer burn. With nitrogen burn, however, you have predominantly foliar symptoms and may get some drying back of young shoots but you don't get the lesions on the stems or shoots that you get with disease. For control of *Phytophthora* blight, thinning out or pruning is again recommended along with removing and destroying any diseased material. Susceptible plants may be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture or sulfur (I am not sure how good sulfur would be) when the leaves are opening and again when they are fully opened. Another good practice with lilacs is not to grow them in mixed plantings with Rhododendron or elderberry, since these plants are also highly susceptible to *Phytophthora* infection and considerable disease spread may occur between these species if planted close to each other.

The third disease I'd like to mention is quite common on lilac and one that you are all familiar with — powdery mildew caused by the fungus *Microsphaera alni*. Mildew usually appears late in the season in Illinois, we commonly find it in mid to late July, and it is usually associated with warm, humid nights. Typical symptoms are the appearance of a white, cottony growth on the upper leaf surface, later followed by yellowing, curling, and some defoliation of affected leaves. Severe infection can cause stunting of plants. Older leaves are usually more heavily infected than the younger ones. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending on how well you like to spray, it is not too difficult to control powdery mildew with fungicide sprays. I have obtained very good control with wettable sulfur at the rate of 3 pounds in 100 gallons of water, or with Karathane at ½ pound in 100 gallons. Two or three applications should be made at 3 to 4 week intervals, beginning when mildew spots first appear. I think both materials still have label clearance for use on lilacs. The heavily infected plants you see in the slide are in a central Illinois nursery in September. The healthy plants are directly adjacent (within a foot of the unsprayed plants) and had been sprayed once in July and once in August with ½ pound per 100 gal. of Karathane. Good mildew control was achieved and the sprays gave good residual effect. On unsprayed plants, however, mildew remains one of our most common disease problems.

There are a number of other disease problems of lilacs that appear at times but most are not too common. There are many leaf spots and blights caused by fungi and at least one by a bacterium. These are usually confined to the leaf blades and do not affect the shoots. They may cause problems during wet weather, particularly in the spring, and if you have wet, cool weather for prolonged periods, it may be advisable to spray with Bordeaux mixture 2-2-50 about mid-June, with additional sprays if wet weather persists. I don't like to recommend preventive spray programs for these diseases since they are sporadic. I think you would be well off not to spray until you begin to see some early symptoms of infection.

Another disease that is not too common but one that you may come in contact with is *Verticillium* wilt. Since I don't have any slides of *Verticillium albo-atrum* on lilac, I am including this one of wilt on smoke-bush (*Cotinus*). These symptoms are rather typical of *Verticillium* wilt. On lilac, the initial symptoms include a loss of glossiness of leaves, which later turn pale and may wilt. Premature defoliation of affected branches is common and the stems will die during the winter, often to the ground line. The fungus is soil-borne and usually gets into the plant through wounds in the roots. Commonly you will find some discoloration in the wood

or xylem of affected stems. The slide on the screen shows discoloration in maple stems infected with *Verticillium* but I think you will find similar discoloration in wilting lilacs. One of the symptoms that distinguishes *Verticillium* wilt from bacterial or *Phytophthora* blight is a lack of external lesions or symptoms on wilting stems. The discoloration is usually in the wood itself and not in the bark. Sudden wilting may occur with no other visible symptoms unless you cut into the stem to find discoloration in the wood. Since the fungus is soil-borne, there is very little you can do to prevent infection. Once a plant is diseased, it should be removed and burned, otherwise it will usually go ahead and die in time. Lilacs should not be replanted in soils where *Verticillium* has been found.

A disease which occasionally appears but is of rather minor importance on lilac is bacterial crown gall. I don't have a slide showing galls on lilac but this one of euonymus will serve, since the galls are similar on most host species. Young galls are light in color and somewhat soft, later turning hard and woody and darker. The disease is caused by a soil-borne bacterium that infects fresh wounds. Little can be done after plants have become infected except to remove and destroy the plants. Since it is a wound parasite, one control is to avoid wounding as much as possible and to sterilize pruning tools when working on lilacs if crown gall is present. Crown gall is predominantly a propagators' problem, however, and the best control is to obtain and plant disease-free stock. If the plants are handled properly and are disease-free when you get them, it is likely that they will remain healthy. In most cases they are infected before they are planted in a landscape planting. There are no good chemical controls for crown gall that are practical for lilac.

Another disease problem that I could not find in the Arboretum collections and that I don't have a slide of is witches broom. You may be familiar with these on lilacs — symptoms usually begin with the appearance of 2 to 6 slender shoots produced in the top of the plant, which branch freely and have leaves  $\frac{1}{4}$  normal size that may be curled or distorted. They are rather striking when you see them. Later the affected shoots may die, leaving dead clumps or brooms that are conspicuous during the winter. The disease is caused by a virus, which is graft transmissible. The only good control is to prune out the brooms and to destroy plants that are heavily infected.

A fairly common problem on lilacs in this area is what I call chilling or freezing injury. I have here two specimens I collected today showing rather typical symptoms. It commonly appears in the spring when we have freezing or near-freezing temperatures following bud break. Marginal and interveinal chlorosis or necrosis may appear and quite often the leaves appear torn irregularly along the veins. Tip leaves may be curled and darkened. The specimens I picked up today are a bit wilted now but there is some distortion and a slight burning of the terminal leaves that I feel is due to chilling injury. You may want to examine these specimens later. Of course there is nothing you can do to prevent this type of injury but it may be well to learn to recognize it.

Graft blight, which used to be a bigger problem than it is today, is due to incompatibility between lilac scions and privet rootstock or understock. It is not really a disease problem but the symptoms often resemble disease. Leaves are smaller in size than normal and you may see marginal and interveinal chlorosis or yellowing, resembling nutrient deficiency. Plants may be stunted and the scion becomes swollen at the graft as compared to the rootstock, as seen in this slide. The lilac scion has grown much more rapidly than the privet understock and the graft union did not form properly. Obviously, the control for this type of disorder is to propagate lilac on its own rootstock or propagate from cuttings.

Lilacs are fairly sensitive to weed killers such as 2-4-D, and this slide shows typical symptoms. Most weed killers are growth regulating compounds, therefore

twisting and curling or distorted growth are quite common and are indicative of weed killer damage. In this slide you can see the twisting or epinasty of the leaf petioles. Sometimes you get yellowing or chlorosis of leaves from weed killers without much growth distortion. The best control is to avoid the use of weed killers in the vicinity of lilacs; little can be done after damage has appeared. I would suggest that you avoid fertilizing injured plants for some time because, quite often if they are in an active stage of growth, fertilizing will increase the amount of symptoms. However, they should be kept well watered.

I would like to mention one other potential problem on lilacs that you are probably not aware of, since I have not found any mention of it in the literature. There is a possibility that there may be some nematodes that cause damage on lilacs. Nematodes are very small, microscopic roundworms that live in the soil and feed on the roots of ornamental plants. They are present in large numbers in most all soils. Several years ago, two nematologists from the University of Illinois and myself examined the roots of many species of nursery stock. On Persian lilac from one field we found extremely high populations of the lesion nematode *Pratylenchus*. The slides I have show microscopic sections of roots that have been stained with biological dyes, and you can see the nematodes in the root cortex tissues. When a healthy root is compared to an infested root, the disorganization and destruction of the cortex is obvious. We found some of the highest populations of nematodes we had ever seen on Persian lilac roots. The destruction of root cortex caused elongated lesions, which probably reduce plant vigor and may provide entrance for root rot organisms. Since the lilacs were removed from this field and we have not found another good infestation, the importance of lesion nematodes on this species is not known. I could find no reports on nematode problems on lilacs, but I thought you might like to see what they look like and be aware that these problems may exist.

The last problem I would like to mention is one that I am sure all of you are interested in. This is air pollution damage known as leaf roll necrosis. Most of the work done on this problem was conducted by Dr. Craig Hibben at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, in cooperation with Dr. Jerry Walker, who is now located at the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station. I would like to give full credit to Drs. Hibben and Walker for the slides and information presented here today. Leaf roll necrosis has been identified at Arboretums in New York City, Boston, and Philadelphia, which are heavily urbanized areas. Early symptoms appear in May or June as leaf rolling. Other types of damage may appear later as interveinal and marginal leaf necrosis, chlorosis and bronzing of leaves, and early leaf drop. At some sites they found spotting and necrosis on the upper surface of leaves, which indicated that there may at times be some aerosol precipitation type of damage rather than just the gaseous pollutant type. The leaf roll necrosis symptoms have been attributed to the presence of oxidant pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, or a combination of the two. Symptoms are predominantly on the under surface of leaves, indication oxidant injury, whereas other pollutants usually cause symptoms on the upper surface. Drs. Hibben and Walker have placed lilacs in fumigation chambers, exposed them to known concentrations of these pollutants, and recorded the type of injury. They have also put oxidant-filtering chambers on shoots of lilacs in the field in exposed areas near New York and Philadelphia and were able to demonstrate that removal of atmospheric oxidants reduced the amount of symptoms. They have not been able to duplicate the exact type of symptoms observed in the field, however, and at latest report they feel that there are other, as yet unknown, pollutant components that are involved in leaf roll necrosis. The levels of ozone or sulfur dioxide required to produce symptoms in chambers were considerably above those monitored in the field where damage occurs. Exposure to PAN (peroxyacetyl nitrate), which a component of photochemi-



cal smog usually associated with automobile exhaust, did not produce damage symptoms. This also indicates that some unknown compounds are involved. Mr. Eickhorst of the Morton Arboretum has indicated that they have observed symptoms on lilac similar to leaf roll necrosis in this area many times. Since little can be done to prevent or treat pollution damage, I suspect that control will have to be accomplished through the selection of pollutant resistant varieties of lilacs. Drs. Hibben and Walker have submitted a paper recently, I believe to the Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science, giving results of their studies on cultivar sensitivity. They conducted a series of studies in several arboretums on the relative sensitivity of lilac varieties and cultivars to oxidant pollutants, and there is evidently a wide range of sensitivity. This paper should be out in the near future. Their main article on leaf roll necrosis appeared in this journal in the November issue of 1974. The article is quite technical, but if you wish to look at it, the reference is Volume 99, pages 508-514.

I believe I will conclude the presentation on lilac diseases at this time. I don't have a watch on so I don't know if I have used up my allotted time. I will try to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Q. There is a relatively common symptom on lilac in the Philadelphia area — I assume it's a disease and I'm not sure you covered it. It's best described by the new growth — the tip of the leaf does not fully develop and is curled partway back, like a mutation except there is no browning.

A. That sounds typical of what I consider to be chilling injury similar to what you see on this specimen I collected this morning. It could be due to other causes but it's usually associated with low temperatures, which do not have to be below freezing. Near freezing temperatures or even those in the low forties, depending on the stage of growth, can cause these symptoms.

AMUSING BUT CONFUSING.....

#### ANTIDOTES FOR TAXONOMIC ANECDOTES

*Floyd Swink, Taxonomist, Morton Arboretum*

A delightful presentation of taxonomic slides was given by Floyd Swink that was most amusing and educational to all the members. His knowledge of taxonomy and his singular ability to provide humor and insight made it a wonderful opener for the evening of the Lilac Plant Auction which gave members an opportunity to purchase rare and choice lilacs.

## INSECTS ATTACKING LILACS AND THEIR CONTROL

By Dr. James E. Appleby  
Associate Entomologist  
Illinois Natural History Survey

It is indeed a real privilege and pleasure for me to appear before the International Lilac Society this afternoon, and at this time I would like to invite each of you to visit the campus of the University of Illinois and the Natural History Survey. The Survey is located on the campus of the University of Illinois across from the College of Education, and on behalf of Don Schoeneweiss and myself, we would be more than happy to show you our facilities at the Survey and tell you about some of the research projects we are involved in. Lilacs are certainly very beautiful shrubs. I particularly enjoy them because of their fragrance and the beautiful flowers, the very attractive foliage, and the shape of the plant. It is fortunate that they are attacked by very few insect pests, but of the pests which do attack lilac, they are all very serious pests; and so this afternoon I would like to talk to you about the biology of these two insects — namely oystershell scale and the lilac borer, and to suggest control recommendations which you might want to use to control them.

One can readily understand why this insect is called oystershell scale. The scale has the appearance of tiny oystershells. They are about 1/8th inch in length and they are grey or brown in color. On lilac, they generally feed on the woody parts of the plant. Early in the spring, the young nymphs will move to the more succulent growth, but generally the succulent growth will eventually become woody so that later you will find the scales on the woody parts. There are two forms of oystershell scale, the grey and the brown. The brown form is shaped exactly like the grey, except that its brown in color, however, the biologies of the grey and brown forms are different. Oystershell scale has a wide host range which includes ash, birch, apple, pear, lilac, cotoneaster, and many other plants. This slide shows a very heavy infestation of oystershell scale on cotoneaster. You can see that the scale is actually causing the death of many of the branches of the cotoneaster hedge, and the same results will occur on lilacs if the infestation is severe. Here, the scale is feeding on the ground-cover, *Pachysandra*. The scales feed on the plant by inserting their mouth parts into the plant tissues where it feeds on the plant sap. Where there are literally thousands of these nymphs feeding on the plant, they so weaken the plant that it simply dies. During the winter months, if you lift up a scale covering, you'd often find tiny white eggs under the scale covering. The oystershell scale overwinters in the United States in the egg stage. In mid-spring the eggs hatch into tiny yellow-white immature scales often referred to as nymphs or crawlers. Young scales at this stage have legs, but then shortly thereafter they molt into a legless form. It's during this nymphal or crawler stage that the scales may be carried long distances by wind currents or birds. You can picture the situation where you'll have a bird hopping around from branch to branch and where there are literally thousands of these tiny nymphs crawling along a branch. The nymphs will crawl up onto the bird's legs and when the bird lights onto another plant, the scale nymphs simply crawl off the bird's legs onto the new host plant. I suspect, though, that wind currents are the most important means of transportation for the scale crawlers.

After the scale nymphs find a suitable host plant, they simply begin feeding, molt, and from then on they become stationary. Here we see the tiny yellow-white nymphs feeding on a lilac branch. The old scales are the brown ones, and the very tiny yellowish-white ones have molted and become sessile on the branch. The scale may feed for a month or a couple of months, at which time it again produces eggs and completes the life cycle. This slide shows diagrammatically the life history of oystershell scale which is the grey form, that occurs here at the Morton Arboretum. Here at

the arboretum, you'll have egg hatch about the middle of June, and the nymphs feed for a time, and about the latter part of July they mature into adults, and produce eggs about the first part of August. The eggs will then overwinter, completing the life cycle. This is the grey form — the form that you'll find in northern states. In central Illinois and further south, you'll have the brown form which has two generations a year. The egg is the overwintering form. At Champaign-Urbana, you'll have eggs hatching as early as early May — sometimes, like this year when we have a late spring, you'll have hatch sometime in late May or early June. The nymphs feed for a period of about a month. Adults appear toward the last part of June, and produce the eggs which hatch in early July — again producing another generation of nymphs. These become adults about the first part of August, producing eggs again about the middle of August. So, in central Illinois, there's two generations a year. Of course, you can understand why we have more of a problem with oystershell scale because of the two generations a year. You may say — how can I tell whether the eggs have hatched or not? This is important in control measures which I will tell you about very shortly. I think, for homeowners, they can consult their local extension agent. Unfortunately, there are not too many entomologists involved in research on ornamentals in many of the states, so you may have trouble finding out that detailed information. However, you can find out this information for yourself. I would suggest that during the winter months, familiarize yourself with the scale insect, lift them up with a little pin, put them on a piece of paper and you can examine the eggs. Do this with a magnifying glass. Examine the scales about once every two weeks during the spring months, and you can readily see when the tiny nymphs start hatching from the eggs. After all the eggs have hatched, then initiate a program to control the insect. So you have to do a little bit of work on your own, but I think that it would give you more accurate information than any other way. Now let's see what would happen if we would apply an insecticide just after all the eggs had hatched. When we applied diazinon, malathion, ethion-in-oil, and dimethoate in late May, we found that all of these insecticides gave better than 98% control. Diazinon, malathion, and ethion-in-oil do have label clearance for use on lilac. So, as a homeowner, you can purchase these materials. I have indicated here the rates that they are used in 100 gallons. The rate of 1 quart in 100 gallons is equivalent to 2 teaspoonsful to 1 gallon. Dimethoate, or Cygon, does not have label clearance for lilac. What would happen if we apply an insecticide in early August when the insects are in the adult stage, but before eggs are produced. Do we still get such good control when they are in the adult stage? This is the data from when the insecticides were applied on August 3rd. Excellent control resulted with malathion, dimethoate (Cygon)-or diazinon, and good control with ethion-in-oil. So even when the scale is in the adult stage but before any eggs are produced, you'll still get excellent control. Of course, you have the disadvantage, when they're in the adult stage, that much of the injury has occurred, so you would be well advised to control the insect when it's in the nymphal stage, or just after all the eggs have hatched.

I didn't mention anything about dormant oil for control of oystershell scale. We have used dormant oil and found that it was very ineffective in the control of oystershell scale. Dormant oils are effective on such scales as obscure scale and San Jose scale. These scales overwinter as nymphs, and it's effective on those kind of scales, but when you have scales like oystershell that overwinters in the egg stage, they are not very effective.

Another insect pest which is quite serious on lilacs is the lilac borer. Here you see a very roughened area on a lilac branch. This area here with just a tiny bit of sawdust coming out of the wounded area indicates a lilac borer infestation. The same symptoms that occur on lilacs occur on privet. Here we see a privet branch showing the typical symptoms of borer attack during the late summer months. The

frass is coming out of the branch, and the roughened area where the borer is living. If you cut open a branch like I've shown of privet, you might find a lilac borer larvae inside. It's a larvae about 1 inch in length, and cream-colored, with a brown head. The lilac borer overwinters in the larval stage, so anytime during the winter months, if you would cut open an infested branch, you would find a larva like this inside. During the month of May, in central Illinois, the larva changes into the pupa stage, and in central Illinois, the adult moth emerges during the month of June. When the adult moth emerges, it often leaves it's old pupal case sticking out of the branch. For a homeowner who suspects a lilac borer infestation, it would be wise to carefully observe the lilacs, particularly during the months of May and June. Look at them about every three or four days, and when you see this type of situation where the pupal skin is sticking out of the branch — you know then that you have adult emergence and if you spray the plants about two weeks after you see the cast skin in it, you'll get very good control. Again — the life history will vary according to the location in the nation. The adults will emerge in the month of June in central Illinois and perhaps in Michigan you'll have them emerging in July. So it's just up to you to do a little bit of experimenting on your own and find out this information in your particular area. The adult of the lilac borer is very wasp-like. In fact, if you would see this insect in the wild, you'd probably call it a wasp. They even act like a wasp — similar behavior. They are rather purplish winged with rusty colored wing bases. The adults emerge in June and lay their eggs on the branches, especially on wounded areas of the plant. These may be wounds caused by lawnmowers getting too close to the base of the plant. The female moth lays tiny yellowish eggs. About 7 to 10 days later the eggs hatch and the lilac borer larvae then burrow into the hardwood of the plant. They first work rather closely under the outer layer of the bark and then later as they mature they enter into the heartwood of the tree or shrub. During the month of May, if you would section open an infested branch, you would occasionally find a cocoon. This cocoon contains a parasite of the lilac borer. The adult which emerges from the cocoon is a small ichneumon wasp. A couple of years ago, when we conducted a survey, about 37% of the lilac borer larvae were infected with this parasite. Parasite emergence began during the first part of June and persisted until about the middle of June. Emergence of lilac borer moths in central Illinois began the eighth of June and continued until the 23rd of June. Thiordan 2E is the most effective chemical to use for lilac borer control. It also is sold under the name of endosulfan. I have a handout for you which explains the life history of this insect and its control. In the handout only endosulfan is mentioned. Just remember that Thiordan and endosulfan are synonymous. If you use Thiordan at the rate of 1 quart of the 2E per 100 gallons of water, equivalent to 2 teaspoonsful to 1 gallon of water, and apply about two weeks after adult moth emergence, you should get good control of lilac borer. When applying this insecticide, it's important that you apply it to the branches of the bush — you don't necessarily have to apply it to the leaves and the very small twigs — just more or less to the trunk of the plant where the borer is more liable to infest the wood.

I want to emphasize to you the importance of realizing that some insecticides are rather toxic chemicals. You can see that Thiordan is listed as 18 on this chart with a range from 1 to 5,000, which would put it in the range of a very highly toxic chemical. So when you use this chemical, be sure to be very careful with it — be sure to wear rubber gloves and take the necessary precautions. If you get some of the spray on your skin, be sure to wash it off right away with hot soapy water. Look at diazinon, which is another chemical registered on lilac — it has a rating of 76 which would put it into a moderately high toxicity rating. Malathion has a rating of 1,000 which would mean that the chemical is of low toxicity. So, for oystershell scale,

malathion would be a very safe chemical to use.

QUESTIONS:

(Q) I would like to say — I have a rather sandy gravel soil and I used to have a lot of oystershell scale. I went to the University of Massachusetts specialist and asked him what to do. He talked about one thing, but in his own private back garden, he made a mixture according to specifications on the bottle of Sevin and he put this Sevin with malathion in the same container — and he said he had no oyster shell scale. I'm using this combinatino now — have for seven years — and I have less than half of one percent of my lilacs who show any scale.

(A) Sevin is approved for usage. There's nothing wrong with that. However, I think you can get just as good control by just using malathion. Have you used malathion?

(Q) You don't think the Sevin does any good?

(A) Oh, yes I do. We simply did not use Sevin in our tests, and I think that it would give just as good a control as malathion. I think you could get just as good control by using either one of them — and they are both very safe materials. The only disadvantage in using Sevin is that you do run the risk of having a mite buildup on some plants when you use Sevin. On many ornamental trees and shrubs there are found two kinds of mites — predaceous mites and plant-feeding mites. Predaceous mites feed on the plant-feeding mites. Certain chemicals, such as Sevin, kill the predacious mites but have no effects on the plant-feeding mites. As a result one has a problem with the plant-feeding mites because of the tremendous increase in their population.

(Q) You advise just to use malathion?

(A) You do not have a problem with mites on lilac — so it won't make much difference — you could use either. But on certain plants, Sevin does have that disadvantage. In orchards where they have used Sevin for several years — they had really serious problems with mites. So then they had to use a miticide to get rid of the plant-feeding mites.

(Q) Do you get less borer problems if you try to have as little damage to your lilacs as possible? Is it the only place where they lay their eggs?

(A) I don't have any detailed information on that — I just know that when we did cause injury to the plant by stripping back the bark, we did find that the moths lay their eggs on these sites. Now, there has been some work where they found that plants that are in a very weakened state are more susceptible to borer attack.

Charlie—can you elaborate on our problem with lilac borer. We have no problem with lilac borer — none at all — that I will publicly admit. And you're from Hamilton, Ontario.

(Q) Back in grandpa's day, they used to say "Go after them with carbon disulfide and a little chewing gum." Is that still accepted procedure?

(A) Well — the problem of that type of control is that by the time you see the larva, the damage is already done. It's like killing one fly in the barn — you'll kill that particular fly, but what your aim should be is preventing any further infestations. So — all right — you'll kill it with carbon disulfide by injecting it in this hole, but obviously, there are other borers in the area and they'll come in and lay their eggs on the plant. By the time you see the frass the injury is done.

(Q) You talked about the two insects — the borer and the oystershell scale — could you say a good word about the giant hornet?

(A) The giant hornet? You've got me stumped — I've never heard of the giant hornet.

(A) It's no problem in the Midwest? It is in the East.

(A) It is! What kind of a problem?

(A) It girdles — and I wonder if you could say anything to us about this — you

- being the expert — and we being the poor people who have to suffer.
- (A) Well, I have not read anything about this — we're not really familiar with it here in the Midwest . . .
- (Q) That's what I thought — I thought it was an eastern phenomenon.
- (A) What do the entomologists tell you in the East?
- (Q) Well, it girdles and you find dead branches — that sort of thing.
- (A) What part of the East are you from, New Jersey? I'm sorry, I can't give you any information.
- (Q) You were saying that one should take a magnifying glass, go out, observe the hatching of the nymphs. Would you say that perhaps the period of time of the first hatch to the last hatch would be more or less similar here versus Ontario versus maybe more south, or would you say that climatic conditions could create situations that total period needed for total hatching is greater here or there?
- (A) It would certainly be greater further north, because the further north the more drastic are the temperature fluctuations. You may have a couple days of 75 degree temperatures and then you may have a terrific drop — going down to the 40's for a period of several days — whereas further south, that generally does not occur. Our variations do not occur so drastically as you have in the North. So, I would say it would be more extended in the North.
- (Q) Would you say five weeks period?
- (A) I would say probably three weeks.
- (Q) If you find a wound and dress it with a wound dressing, does this discourage the insect from then depositing the eggs on that particular branch?
- (A) I wish I had that information — I really don't know. I suspect that it would.
- (Q) Is a pruning wound also susceptible to borers?
- (A) I would say so, because when we did these tests a few years ago, all we did was take a part of the bark and strip it down like it showed on the slide. Essentially that's what you have when you prune — you take off a cutting. Tony — when do you prune lilac?
- (Q) Whenever the knife is sharp, I guess. We tend to want to do it in the wintertime, but it's not always possible.
- (A) Is it possible to prune them, say a month after they bloom — would this be desirable? What I'm thinking of here — it would be desirable to have those areas completely healed over or do your pruning about a month after all the adult moths have emerged — then there's no chance of them finding these areas, whereas if you do it in early spring you're going to have those fresh wounds there and when the moths emerge they will be depositing eggs on those wounded areas.
- (Q) That's why I wondered about the tree borer.
- (A) Generally, it's difficult to work on borer insects because you don't have heavy infestations — if we had an area where we had 100 or 200 bushes heavily infested, then you can get this information pretty readily. But normally you'll have only 10 or 15 bushes, and the incidence may be as low as 5% infestation. You really can't get good reliable information working with that small a number.

## LILAC REGISTRATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS

The registration of cultivar names, or if you prefer: variety names, is guided by two items, namely "Appendix I" of the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants - 1969 edition (page 25), and the still unpublished third draft of the "Notes for the Guidance of International Registration Authorities for Cultivated Plants," dated June 1974. By necessity my comments will contain frequent quotes of passages or phrases from the latter "Notes."

The "AIM OF REGISTRATION" is "to promote uniformity, accuracy and fixity in the naming of . . . cultivars by appointment of International Registration Authorities . . .". "International Registration Authorities are appointed by the International Society for Horticultural Science."

"The principles governing acceptance or rejection of cultivar names for registration are laid down in the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants . . ." This Code, in turn, ". . . is subject to regulations regarding botanical names in Latin form laid down in the International Code of *Botanical* Nomenclature (latest edition 1972) . . ."

As you know, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton accepted the appointment to act as the International Registration Authority, I.R.A. for short, for new cultivar names of Lilacs, and asked me to be the Registrar. — The first duty of an I.R.A. is "to compile and publish, as soon as possible, a tentative International Register (Check List) of all known cultivar names for this genus [*Syringa*]. This for circulation to various authorities for comment and amendment."

We are very fortunate in that Dr. Owen Rogers was not only willing but very eager to take on the responsibility of compiling this tentative International Register; it is his major project during his present sabbatic leave from the University of New Hampshire. — The next step will be "to publish a comprehensive International Register (Check List) of ALL names and cultivars known in cultivation and all known synonyms (including commercial synonyms) of the genus, after corrections, omissions, and additions to the tentative International Register have been made." — This then, is the first phase. — The second phase is to register cultivar names and "to publish at reasonable intervals (if necessary annually) registration lists containing those cultivars which have been registered . . ." It is the duty of the I.R.A. and its Registrar to judge whether a name submitted for registration is ". . . in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants . . .", and to "use caution to avoid the registration of names for cultivars that do not exist. (i.e., reserved names)." "Once an International Register has been published and registration is proceeding, the I.R.A. will need to continue periodic searches to ensure that all new cultivar names in [*Syringa*] are noted for future editions of the International Register. This may be achieved, in part, by reference to horticultural publications (particularly nurserymen's catalogues) and also by assistance from [the International Lilac Society and its Advisory Committee on Lilac Registration] . . ."

Furthermore it is the duty of the I.R.A. to "produce a Registration Form . . ." Your Advisory Committee already has input into this, but such a form will not be finalized until we have the full benefit of Dr. Roger's experience and until the Notes for Guidance of International Registration Authorities for Cultivated Plants have been published in their final form in *Chronica Horticulturae*, the official publication of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

The third draft of Notes for the Guidance of International Registration Authorities for Cultivated Plants states that I.R.A.'s should require that names

submitted for registration be accompanied by the following *minimum* information and material:

1. The name and address of
  - (a) the originator of the cultivar
  - (b) the person(s) who named and described the cultivar
  - (c) The introducer(s) to cultivation of the cultivar
  - (d) the introducer(s) to commerce of the cultivar or their assignee(s) of propagation rights (if applicable).
2. If a cultivar has been named and described previously, but not registered, the name of the person who originally named and/or described it, together with a full reference to the date and place of publication.
3. The original name if the name submitted for registration is a commercial synonym or translation into another tongue.
4. The parentage, when known, together with date of raising.
5. Particulars of patenting; trademarking; plant breeders rights; and testing in recognized trials, if applicable.
6. Awards received, with dates.
7. A description in a language using Latin alphabet including, where applicable, classification, and details of colour (with reference to colour chart used). In cases of languages other than those using Latin alphabet, the name of the cultivar should be transliterated into English.
8. A listing of differential characters between the cultivar being registered and any closely related cultivars, if practicable.
9. A photograph, painting or drawing.
10. Where known, relationship of the cultivar to a species of hybrid group should be stated."

In winding up my comments on Lilac Registration I would like to point out that under the terms of reference quoted "it is *NOT* the function of an I.R.A. to

- (i) Conduct trials.
- (ii) Judge if one cultivar is more meritorious than another.
- (iii) Judge distinctness of cultivars.

Such procedures are expensive and very time-consuming to undertake and often difficult to carry out satisfactory."

#### IMPLICATIONS OF LILAC REGISTRATION

For those who want to register a new Lilac cultivar the implications are that we will be asking all these questions to be able to provide full information on the background of any new cultivar. Everyone will realize that the information we supply can be only *as good* and *no better* than the information we receive from the person registering the new cultivar.

Registration of lilac cultivars leads to the need of publication of Registration Lists. These Registration Lists are of world-wide interest and should reach the major horticultural and botanical libraries, plus those libraries located in climatic regions where Lilacs can be grown. The implication is that the I.R.A. will have to choose a periodical which is published regularly and has a world-wide distribution. We hope and trust that the I.L.S. publication *LILACS* will meet this challenge by the time we are ready with our first Registration List.

I quoted from the Notes for Guidance, that "it is *NOT* the function of an I.R.A. to judge distinctiveness of cultivars." There is no doubt, however, that "it is very *desirable* for judgements on distinctiveness between cultivars to be made . . ." The implications here are that we lack an efficient and effective way to describe



lilac cultivars, particularly their flower colours.

I know that several people among those here today are not only aware of this problem, but have taken a critical look at it and are trying to find a way to solve it. Concerning colour determination there are two avenues open, namely the use of one of the colour charts or physical colour determination. — Here is a project looking for someone.

I also quoted the Notes for Guidance by saying that “it is *NOT* the function of an I.R.A. to conduct trials and to judge if one cultivar is more meritorious than another.” However, you may have noted that points five and six of the *minimum information* required for registering new cultivar names refer to “testing in recognized trials” and “awards received.” The *implication* of this is that, to my knowledge, we still lack objective judging standards for Lilacs; and objective judging standards are the prerequisite for any testing programme.

So, if I may finish by summarizing these last few thoughts:

If you are planning to name a new Lilac, my advice is to *keep good records*; they will be most useful at registration time.

If you want to make a contribution to the betterment of the Lilac in this world, I urge you to consider *COLOUR DETERMINATION* and *OBJECTIVE JUDGING STANDARDS* as priority projects.

*Freek Vrugtman  
Curator of Collections,  
Royal Botanical Gardens,  
Hamilton, Canada.*

### A VISIT TO HAMESBEST NURSERIES AT RANDOLPH CENTER, VERMONT

One whole year of New England residence has come and gone before I found the right occasion to visit the Philip Hodgsons in neighboring Vermont. At last a mountain day in late August signaled the propitious time, for we look for the passage of a cold front before traveling. A telephone call assured us that our visit would be welcome, and so next day Mother and I drove across the Connecticut River over I-89 just below White River Junction, following the White River upstream some thirty miles to Rt. 66 exit marked Randolph Center. At the hilltop a half mile to the east is Main Street, a ten rod green reminiscent of Connecticut Valley towns. Turning right we drove southward to the end of the village where two churches faced one another. Below the church on the right is a red brick house, headquarters of Hamesbest Nurseries, the Hodgdon's charming home.

Beyond the house is a two acre hillside nursery containing a marvelous collection of mostly flowering shrubs which are adapted to the climate of central Vermont; the nursery has been established for over 25 years. Iris, daylilies and chrysanthemums provide seasonal color for a garden. Down Main Street a half mile or so the orchard nursery of six acres contains shade trees and conifers.

Landscape size lilacs in a wide assortment of mid- and late season cultivars are available. These are grown on their own roots, and are sturdy plants with large dark green leaves. The Hodgsons do not ship, but they are conveniently located not more than a mile from Interstate 89, so that Hanesbest Nurseries is not far distant from any New England or eastern New York points. They grow contemporary “French hybrids” plus many of the Preston or Ottawa hybrids, especially those sent out by the University of New Hampshire.

## CARE OF THE U.W. LILAC COLLECTION

*K. W. Wood*

The University of Wisconsin Arboretum in Madison had its beginnings in the minds of several civic and academic leaders early in this century. Land for the Arboretum was formally dedicated in 1934. Such names as botanist Norman Fassett, Conservationist Aldo Leopold and ecologist John T. Curtis figure prominently in the early years of its development. These men envisaged an arboretum of plant communities native to Wisconsin or other areas of the mid-continent which would prove hardy in Madison. Today, it is a diverse area including such plant groups as marches, shrub communities, savanna, conifer swamps and forests, deciduous forests and prairies. While these largely artificial or reconstructed communities have met with varied success, the Arboretum is probably most famous today for its work in re-establishing native grasslands. It is one of the first institutions to undertake restoration of our nearly extinct tall-grass prairies.

Lest you think natural communities are the only feature of the Arboretum, I must hasten to add that of the approximately 1200 acres which the Madison Arboretum encompasses, some forty acres have been designated as trial grounds for native and exotic woody plants which might be used in landscaping. Today, this area is known as the G. William Longenecker Horticultural Gardens. Professor Longenecker, a member of the Department of Horticulture, was first chairman of the Arboretum Committee and a very able landscape architect. He was responsible for the design and planting of the drives and ponds in most of the Arboretum. In 1935 the Lilac Collection was his first project in the Arboretum's Horticultural area.

The collection is located in a corner of the horticultural area near the entryway to the administration buildings. The site is exposed, with a fairly deep and heavy soil. Most of the collection is located on the south side of a slight knoll. Magnolias have been planted in the center of the collection near the crest of the slope. This well-drained, breezy site has certainly been important in the success of the collection. Diseases such as powdery mildew have been only a minor problem in most years; although in an occasional spring, such as last year, the area is subject to late frosts which may affect the flowers of some cultivars.

Plants have been arranged primarily in beds, with a few set apart as individual specimens. This gives the collection a very pleasing, landscaped appearance. While young, or after heavy pruning individual cultivars are readily discernable. But, as occasionally happens, some of the more vigorous cultivars blend together making their identification difficult. We know, of course, what cultivars are supposed to be in what spaces, but there are no records of particular color combinations which may or may not have been intended. Occasionally two cultivars of similar color have been planted side by side, with the result that today it is very difficult to distinguish between the two. Or, it may happen that a particularly vigorous cultivar overpowers its neighbor. And, over the years, one or two cultivars have been lost because of this problem. But the net result of the use of beds is a feeling of solitude when walking through the collection even though the area is only a few hundred yards from a busy highway.

New plantings are made as space permits. The plants are set out and tagged, for follow-up watering during the first growing season. Open spaces and edges of the beds are roto-tilled or otherwise cultivated once or twice a year to discourage weeds and to keep the shrubs in bounds. But those cultivars which are so inclined are allowed to sucker and fill in their allotted space. This produces a dense growth which quite satisfactorily shades out most weeds. Honeysuckle, some of the native cherries and,

particularly, buckthorn are the most persistent problems and they are probably most easily identified and attacked in the late fall when they are still green but the lilacs have dropped their leaves.

The beds receive an annual application of fertilizer each spring. After most of the collection has blossomed and flowers have faded, the Arboretum crew goes through the area removing the spent clusters. This not only makes the area more presentable during the rest of the summer, but assures that the plants will put as much energy as possible into the formation of new flower buds.

Ideally, since they bloom early in the spring, lilacs should be renewed pruned shortly after flowering. Certainly this would be the case for any planting where flowers are most important. At our Arboretum, however, spring is a busy time and student help is limited. So most of the pruning of lilacs is done during the winter and early spring — before the plants begin to leaf out. Generally, the oldest canes are removed, from as close to the ground as possible. For the non-suckering plants pruning may involve only removal of conflicting, tall or damaged branches.

The collection contains over 200 species and cultivars.

## VISIT LILAC COLLECTIONS

A good way to become acquainted with choice lilac cultivars (varieties) is to visit a lilac collection — usually the evening hours just before shadows fall (but before insects come out!) afford the best opportunity. Then the subdued light give a glow to colors while the cool breezes enhance the fragrance. Early morning hours, up to ten o'clock, are actually better for fresh colors and enchanting scent, but prepare for dew under foot. Brilliant midday sunlight dazzles the eye in addition to fading delicate colors.

Where would one find a lilac collection? First thought is an arboretum or botanical garden for their plant collections usually are comprehensive and a sizeable plot is afforded to this come-on genus, especially in the Northeast, Midwest or adjacent Canada. Recommended: Arnold Arboretum at Boston, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Morton Arboretum at Chicago, and the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario.

Secondly, the land-grant agricultural colleges are almost sure shots to have worthy collections of lilacs and other ornamental plantings. The University of New Hampshire campus at Durham, Rutgers University display gardens at New Brunswick, New Jersey, Swarthmore (Pennsylvania) College (Scott Horticultural Foundation), Michigan State University at East Lansing, and the University of Nebraska field station at Mead each has notable lilac collections.

Thirdly, public parks: often one park in a municipal system or one section of a given park is devoted to an assortment of lilacs. Highland Park at Rochester, New York; Lilacia Park, Lombard, Illinois; Ewing Park, Des Moines; and the horticultural school of the Niagara Park Commission, Niagara Falls, Ontario, are well-known for their lilac collections.

Finally, certain private citizens who admire lilacs above other kinds of ornamental plants and who have acreage to grow a rainbow collection hold open-house during blooming season. The Albert Lumleys, Harkness Road, Amherst, Massachusetts grow the 100 lilacs recommended in the 1953 lilac survey published by the American Association of Arboretums and Botanical Gardens. The William Utleys, Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Road, Clyde, New York, have a young plantation of lilacs. And the Falconskeap lilac collection of Father Fiala at 7359 Branch Road, Medina, Ohio, is also newly planted.

Sometimes entire communities are arboretums — especially when a horticulturally oriented garden club exists — and you'll find dooryards with superb specimens complementing each other. The Delaware Valley Horticultural Society is carrying out a lilac arboretum project at Delhi, New York. At Woodstock, Vermont, established lilacs may be seen in many a dooryard.

## THE LILAC COLLECTION AT THE MORTEN ARBORETUM

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS...

*Walter Eickhorst, Morten Arboretum*

EICKHORST: To give you a little background of what has transpired over the last few years here at the arboretum, when Ken mentioned about some of the old plants they have in Madison, there are many of them out in our collection that you looked at this morning that were moved the last time in 1934 and 1935. They've been standing there since that time and there are quite a number out there that date back to 1922. Much of the collection originated as plants sent to us from Rochester Parks and the Arnold Arboretum. Over the years, others have been purchased from the Brand Peony Farm, Princeton Nurseries, and many other such sources and growers and have been added to this particular collection. I have one point that continually goes through my mind, and perhaps someone here can answer this. I'm wondering when the practice of grafting the French hybrid lilac onto common lilac understock passed into oblivion. Is this something that took place prior to 1920, or did the practice continue until the 1930s, or just when did that happen? The reason I question the advisability of this is because of the extreme similarity of the understock and the top of the plant. I know that in more recent years they have used privet, ash, villosa, the various species lilacs, etc. as understock, so that you do have this very definite clean-line distinction between the rootstock and the top growth. I'm sure that we have some in our collection that must have been grafted onto common lilac understock because you can go out there and find a number of plants that are too similar to the true selection. However, our own taxonomist, Floyd Swink, is working on the collection — a painfully slow job, and perhaps some of you may have picked up a label out there this morning — he's about five percent through the collection, checking plants out for color, etc., and has designated them as being correct as named. But this is a long slow process, and — yes, Bob.

CLARK: Walter — one of the things that some of us noticed is your 'Belle de Nancy' which is sky high and it is a double and more or less pink. We think it is an early hybrid and not the 'Belle de Nancy.'

EICKHORST: We are quite aware that there are a number of them out there that are not correctly named, and we don't feel quite up to this, but Charlie and I have a couple of ideas — there were three or four of us out there taking mental notes and some physical notes, and we will be back to this group here — you can count on that. We have future plans, we have eliminated quite a number of plants, using as a criterion for doing this the 100 best as set down by John Wister and his committee some 25 years ago, and picked up a few extras that were thought to be worth while by Don Wyman, some more by Herr Krussmann. We have a basic list of about 130 that we regard as being the 100 best. Then, we also held on to the plants that we had acquired since 1940 because we don't feel that we have looked at them enough as yet to know whether they are worth saving or not. But anything that didn't rate prior to the 1943 survey, I believe it was, we willfully cut off two years ago and then we stopped the program about mid-way and still have some out there that are regarded as being red-tag things and will be cut off. However, in the future, we probably will look at a limited number of the newer things which have come into prominence in the last 20 or 25 years. We have not looked at many, many of these, and we feel that we have to. We will, over a period of time, still maintain only a limited collection as opposed to the 12 or 1500 that are known at the present time.

With that as a background, I'd like to have Charlie take over and tell what has been done within the last year or so and what we hope to do in the future.

LEWIS: Thank you Walter — as you can see the lilacs here were grown to maintain the old stems. Very often the young shoots were cut off, and we started a rejuvenation program. In order to rejuvenate, you have to have something coming up from

the bottom to rejuvenate with. I asked a couple of you experts last night — and you said “Don’t be good to them, you have to be mean to them and hack them off.” Some of what we read in Wister’s book and Isabel Zucker’s book had been put into practice even a couple of years ago before I came, and so what you see out there now is a collection in the process of rejuvenation. We have tried both ways — cutting all the way to the ground, and also as Wister I believe says — cutting two feet high. When we finally get shoots on the bottom, then we will take out more of the old ones and start the rejuvenation practice. Now, we are not the experts — you people are, and I’m going to ask you. Is this the way we should be proceeding with them? Throw stones at us, whatever, but we would like to have your ideas on how we should be handling this old material in order to rejuvenate it. Don’t be shy!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

A. Cut two feet up instead of cutting at the ground. CAL: As Wister says — OK. Did you do it with ones that weren’t even showing suckers from the bottom? What’s the best time to cut them off? A: In the winter or late fall.

A. At the Des Moines lilac arboretum, they had a system where each year at the end of the bloom period, they cut out a third or fourth or fifth of the stems near the ground and dressed the others back a little bit and sometimes they induced suckering there. CAL: What we hope is eventually to get that, which should be the standard practice of going through every year and being able to remove some of the oldest wood and selecting new wood, so you have all stages of wood coming along. In the long run, we hope that’s what we will be doing. A: Really bringing them up to date is to cut them all down about two feet from the ground. CAL: OK — but we have another thing to consider here too, and that’s the people who come to view the grounds. We are a landscape arboretum too, so we are trying to hedge between the two and have something out there that looks presentable — we will have signs out there by the way, signs are in the process of being made to explain to the casual visitor why he sees some of them cut off as stubs, and what we are doing.

AUDIENCE: Since some of those are 30, 40, or maybe 50 years old, wouldn’t there be some advantage to leave a few trees to show people that a lilac of 50 or 60 years can get to a size? CAL: I think Tony Tyznik would like to comment on this — go ahead Tony. TYZNIK: I think people should know how big some of these can get. I think that here at the arboretum, we have the potential to allow a few trees to get large, and keep some to the lower size.

CAL: How late can you break the tip of a shoot off and still get a flower bud set? When does a flower set on a lilac — does anyone here know? ANSWER: July or August. CAL: You can prune as late as June or July, and still get flower bud set, or not? ANSWER: In Hamilton, lilacs should be pruned the end of June or first week in July. CAL: Are you getting growth after you prune, and does that growth then set the buds? A: Well — if you do not prune, you will still get formation of flower and bud, but if you do prune, even late August, you will get certain amount of new formation of flowering buds because you are going to get a certain amount of new growth. The majority of new buds are being set in June, July, and August.

CAL: One more question I wanted to ask you — and that has to do with the collection here at the Morton Arboretum. Are there now being set up historical, authenticated collections of lilacs? We have a lot of things sent to us direct from the Arnold, and Arnold got them from Lemoine — should we continue to grow a historical collection here? Should we, as one man said, find the 30 things that will do best at the Morton Arboretum and grow those? What kind of thoughts do you folks have? What do you think an arboretum such as this — what should we be doing about lilacs here? I would be most interested to have your thoughts on this.

A: Do you want 30 thoughts or one thought? If you get 30 thoughts, you will still be as confused as you are right now. CAL: Is Hamilton then, going to be the repository for the historical collection of lilacs? Is there a place where the historical — where there are historical collections of Lilacs? A: Not to my knowledge. CAL: Are there good collections of species? You feel Hamilton is going to try to have a comprehensive collection of species out there, as well. You'll have a good collection of species at Hamilton. The National Arboretum will have a collection of species, so we'll have two locations on this continent of good collections of species.

CLARK: I think that the time has come that we should say something about our host and his collection of lilacs. I have taken some time to look at the lilacs and be impressed with the cultural methods that are currently going on. I wish that Dr. Hall would be here, but health is one thing. He won't hear me and I don't like to talk behind his back. But I do think that the Morton Arboretum collection is one of the good collections in the country. It dates back to 1922, the beginning of the arboretum here, and continued over a period of 15 to 18 years. And then, other things came in. I believe that it would be well if Dr. Hall and his staff would concentrate on the newer lilacs. We are talking about an exciting idea currently at this meeting, and I will have more to say about it in our business meeting tomorrow. But, we are organized as a very young society to promote lilacs, and to promote lilacs we are interested in the better lilacs and not as they were described — some of the older, more historic ones were described this morning — as dogs, and I almost wanted to find out what the person meant by dogs. But I think we all know what he meant. Lilacs that were new a hundred years ago are no longer interesting even, but they should be preserved because — merely for genes that some of them carry, or the certain genes that they do carry. Bob Hilton at Guelph wants to set aside an area for historic, so Hamilton doesn't need to. Rochester has a great area for the historic ones — their collection dates back to the 1890s. There's no need of us concentrating on old varieties except to show the contrast in 100 years, and you don't have to show all these. 'Geant de Batailles,' is that a good lilac? Yes, it's a good lilac, but if we have one here in Chicago, and one in Rochester, and one in Guelph, and one in Boston also — who else is interested in 'Geant de Batailles'? Except that possibly it has a character that we want to bring into our new lilacs, but I think that we're already in our F3 generation in Rochester which, four or five years ago, we announced as a breakthrough and those lilacs were ten years old at that time. But nobody has seen them. Now, next year, I hope that we will be seeing in the Rochester collection these plants planted out in the collection where everyone can see them, and then for us, as a society, to go over into a special area in Rochester that the public is not invited to as yet, and view the F3 generation. It's things like that that we as a society are interested in promoting — not the old Lemoines of 100 years ago. LEWIS: Then what is your suggestion? CLARK: I wouldn't be quite so crude and say "Plow them up and start over again." But, if you could find a new area, I would say "See what you can do toward planting a new collection and just gradually phase this out. Not to say that you shouldn't have some of these 35 foot lilacs in the collection as a focal point or at least a spot of color. Does that answer your question?"

HOLETICH: For the rejuvenation, I could tell you this — the folks at Arnold Arboretum inherited one estate called the Case Estate, and with it they inherited a considerable number of old neglected lilacs. And then they took — they started to rejuvenate them without really knowing how — we are not all going to agree with what they did. But what they did, that I fully agree with — they chopped some flat to the ground — quite a number (10 to 15), some of them at one foot height, some of them at two feet height, and four, and five, and so on, and out of that — come in touch with somebody who is working on it, and ask him — because the first cutting

was done about three or four years ago, and they may have better answers to which particular height of cut responds the best.

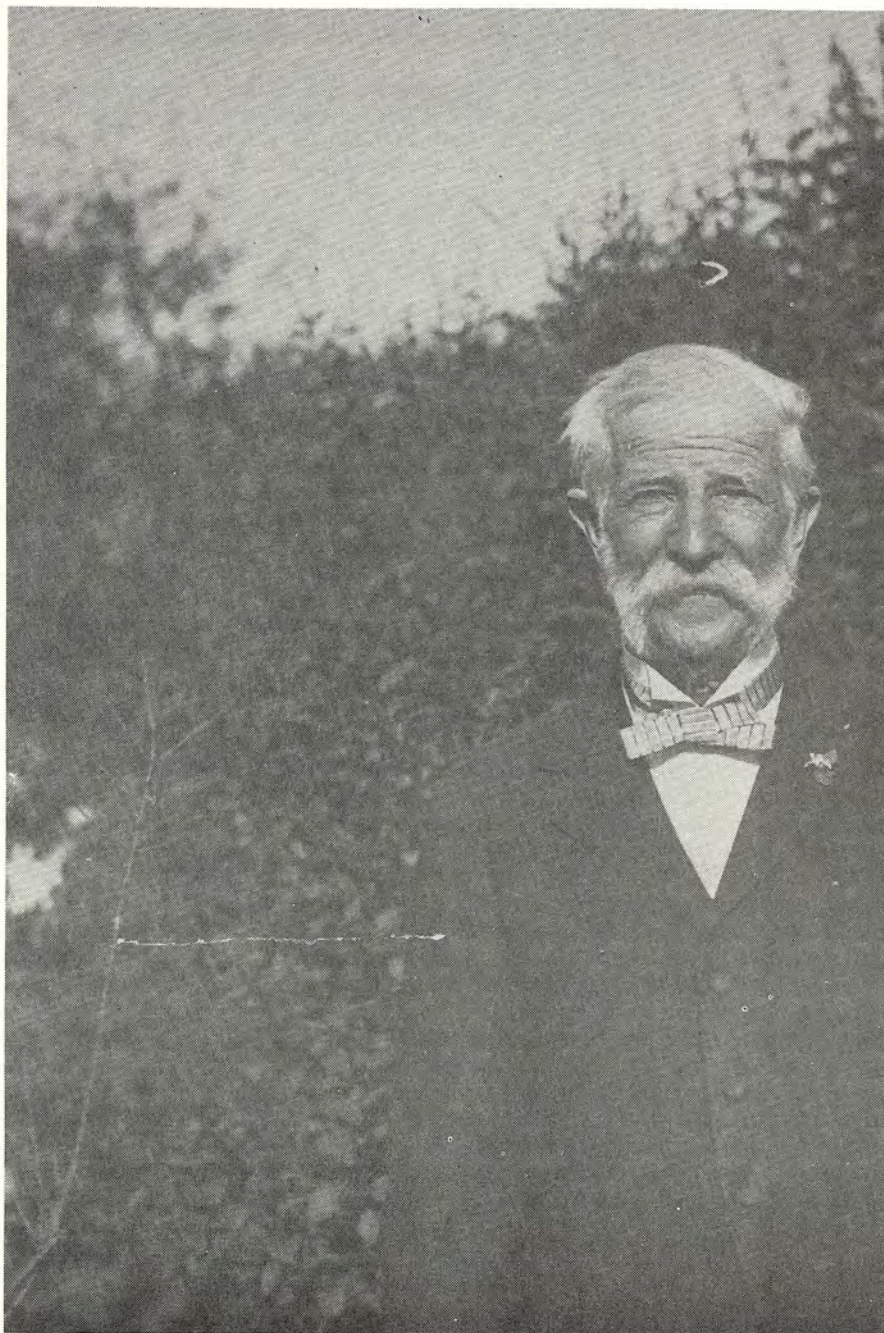
LUMLEY: I took a yardstick on the advice of Dr. John Wister, and I stood it up amidst some of my large bushes and I decided to cut twenty of them off. I cut them at the three foot level — they were pushing nine or ten feet. They looked terrible. I did this in June — I like to cut the blossoms after they flower. I find this excellent for me, so I cut back as much as five and six feet down to that three foot level. I did this a year ago last June, so this is the second year I'm not going to get any flowers — I expect to get them next year. They look a lot better because they've grown about three feet in these 23 months.

HOLETICH: Just to show you how good friends in the society disagree — and that's great — now, he would rejuvenate harshly in June, and I would say "Nonsense, I don't agree. And you would say "Why wouldn't you cut in June?" I feel that nature actually set a perfect balance between crown and the root system and there is a terrific biological or physiological balance between these two parts. Now, if you cut the top and the root remains as it is — if you cut that top, say, in June — surely you are going to get some response. But I feel that if you cut this after the leaves fell down, then you know that each tree in order to open their buds next spring, actually store a tremendous amount of food into that root system, which is in a pure state of carbohydrate completely finished product — almost like a blood that you receive during the process of a transfusion. On this basis, I would say surely that those new shoots are going to benefit much more out of tremendous amount of stored material than the case would be in June. Now what's your argument?

LUMLEY: I'll show it to you in blossom in 1977!

TYZNIK: I just wanted to say that I'm glad there's this much confusion within the lilac society.

EICKHORST: It seems like that's the whole story — a difference of opinion. After all, we are playing a game of catch-up here at the arboretum — many of our plants for the first 13 years that they were in existence literally had wheels on, or they were on a skid because many of them were moved at least five times before they wound up where they're at now. As you can see, we were trying to find an ideal site, but Bob's advice, and a few of our heads together here, we'll probably try to find another spot to start over again. The first philosophy was that adopted back in about the late 30s or early 40s was to allow these plants to grow as they would — be they 15 or 25 feet high. That's exactly what happened with many of them — they've become extremely overgrown. I could show you some today that haven't been touched in almost 40 years, and some of these plants are probably 35 to 40 feet across. They are probably 20 feet high and 40 or 45 feet across — large branches laying on the ground. These things can become immense and if they are allowed to grow to that size, certainly they have little use in the average home landscape because they would cover the whole lot. Under certain circumstances they could be allowed to grow as a natural plant and develop as they will — of course, among those, there are some that don't get nearly as large, but there are some of them that do become extremely large.



Col. William R. Plum



## LILACIA PARK AND THE LILAC FESTIVAL

The crown jewels of Lombard are its lilacs — abundant throughout the Village, but spectacular at Lombard's world famous Lilacia Park.

Over 1200 Hybrid Lilacs in 275 varieties comprise an ornamental display which makes Lilacia Park unique. Its 7½ acres are a source of pride for Lombard's citizens, and they have adopted the lilac as their official flower, and Lombard is known as "The Lilac Village."

The park itself came into official being in 1927 when 2½ acres comprising the grounds of Col. Wm. R. Plum were willed to the Village. Col. Plum had an extensive collection of lilacs which he had cultivated and many were the recent introduction secured from the Le Moine Gardens of Nancy, France. The Plums, fond of travel had visited the garden on one of their trips abroad in the early 1900s and brought back two of the famous French creations, the beautiful pure white Mme. Casimir Perrier and the lovely double, light purple Michel Buchner. Thus the world famous Lilacia Park and its collection of French lilacs had its beginning.

The Plums also brought back from the Black Forest of Germany, a silver poplar which was planted in front of their home to become a land mark in Lombard, having a spread of approximately sixty feet.

As the years passed, the Plums added variety after variety to their collection of lilacs. Col. Plum was a great trader — traded with anyone who had a variety he did not possess, and particularly with the Lilac garden of Rochester, New York.

Upon his death, April 28, 1927, Col. Plum left the entire property to the Village of Lombard — the residence to serve as an endowed library in memory of his wife who preceded him in death — the grounds to serve as a Park.

By the will of Col. Plum, his estate was a gift to the people of Lombard, providing a park district was organized to perpetuate it and enlarge on what he had started. The estate was accepted by a referendum vote, and by court order the Lombard Park District was established September 26, 1927. It was approximately 2 miles square and about a third larger than the Village. The population of Lombard was close to 3,000 and the park district about 3,500 at this time.

Col. Plum's estate was nearly three acres in size, about two-thirds of which consisted of rare lilacs, all labeled and set out along winding paths. The Trustee Deed of Col. Plum's estate was turned over to the Lombard Park District June 26, 1928.

In 1929, Jens Jensen, a noted landscape and park architect of Chicago Park District was chosen to lay out and supervise the ground arrangement of the Plum Memorial Park, as it was first designated. His entire charge was \$600.00. He seemingly had a deep interest in developing Lilacia Park and often visited it. One interesting landmark he left was a steel windmill, located near the barn, which Col. Plum had once used to supply water. It was kept in repair for three or four years, but children had the dangerous habit of climbing the structure and it had to be removed.

Numerous problems for consideration of the new Commissioners began to appear, but the most important decision to be presented was the purchase of practically what is now the north half of Lilacia Park, about three acres, and on which was an old frame residence and another frame building that had once served as the Village Post Office and general store. The property was owned by three unrelated families, and the total valuation was \$67,600.00

In March, 1929, a bond issue of \$118,000 was carried; the North half of Lilacia Park purchased and the balance of the bond issue, approximately \$50,000.00, was not sold for a year, when it was used to purchase another tract now part of Terrace View, and to complete the landscaping of Lilacia Park. Three other lots were

later purchased adjoining Lilacia on the West, thus making it about 7½ acres.

Over the years, the local citizens have become so enthusiastic about their park, that a two-week Festival is celebrated each year. This is highlighted by a Queen Contest and a Lilac Parade.

The first Lilac Festival started in May, 1929, and took on the form of pageantry in connection with the floral display in Lilacia Park. These wandering minstrel-like shows were carried out in the manner of elaborately costumed plays and were held across the street on a large vacant prairie east of Lilacia Park.

A Lilac Queen and her Court of four Princesses presided as rulers and there were brilliant parades with decorative floats, Robin Hood archers, clowns, horsemen and costumed school children. The plays were written and directed by three very talented local. It was all most picturesque, featuring the Robin Hood period of England.

By 1938 the upkeep of Lilacia Park had become too heavy and expensive. Larger and larger attendances at the Lilac Festival was the rule and the wear on the park was ruinous. The Park Board started charging admission that year of \$.25 for adults who did not live in the Park District. Children were admitted free. Two free admission passes were mailed out to each Park District family — a practice which continues today. The charge is now \$.50.

To conduct a Lilac Festival today, it is necessary for the park board to appoint one of its commissioners Lilac Festival Chairman; employ a Director of Admissions, a lady, who hires her help or paid staff as ticket sellers and collectors.

All the events are related in some manner or another. The Lilac Queen Contest is conducted for the park district by the local camera club. Contest rules are simple. The girls must be park district residents, 17 thru 21, unmarried and not a previous winner. Five of the most attractive young ladies are selected as lilac princesses and from these five the queen is selected. The selection of the queen is made by a panel of three judges, and her name is kept a secret until a dramatic moment during the coronation. The coronation is a formal ceremony taking place in Lilacia Park.

The coronation setting in Lilacia Park is just above a pool with a colored flood-lighted splashing waterfall beneath it emptying into a large gold fish pool. It is framed by flowering lilac bushes, shapely blue spruces and evergreen trees. The entire park is floodlighted; soft music is wafted over the grounds and the crowd stands immersed in the beauty of the scene awaiting the final announcement of the Queen of the Lilacs.

The Queen and her court reign over the Lilac Festival Dinner Dance and the park during the Festival. The Festival Dinner Dance is underwritten by the Lombard Chamber of Commerce and is a major fund raiser for the Lilac Festival Parade. Merchant and citizen donations on a voluntary basis combined with the dance proceeds provide the necessary operating funds for the parade — usually budgeted at close to \$5,000.00. The parade is produced by a group of interested Lombard citizens without sponsorship, and has been one of the highlights of the Festival for years.

During early Festivals, the parade served as a kick-off event for the Festival, generally held the day of the Dinner Dance, and the day following the coronation. Today, however, the parade is the finale for festival activities, being held around the 17 or 18th of May for the past few years. This year, falling on May 18, it will bring to a close the major Centennial activities as well as the Lilac Festival.

Lilacia Park is a photographers dream, and they come in droves joining residents, flower lovers and lilac fanciers 'till park attendance has reached upwards of 80,000 during the past few festivals.

The park requires intensive preparation. Beginning the first of April four to

five men are working daily to ready the park. This includes the cultivation and edging of all tulip beds, mowing and trimming of the grass, laying of sod borders, resurfacing the crushed limestone paths, placing of labels on over 60,000 tulips in 200 varieties, the replacement of dirty or missing labels on the lilac bushes, cleaning and painting the lily pool and waterfall, and the readying of the lighting system.

The normal blooming season begins about May 5 and lasts about two weeks. With the early bloom of the tulips and the lasting qualities of the hybrid lilacs there is a succession of blooms and a riot of color. The park opens at 9:00 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. daily as long as the blooms do not fade. Since the park is lighted, many persons visit the park in the evening to enjoy the lilac aroma and to view the tulips which fold their petals to sleep through the night.

The garden is visited by many, but none more appreciative than those who live in Lombard and to whom it has become "my park," "my festival" and "my parade."

*Mrs. Bob Krieg*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 1976

The International Lilac Society was organized at Bayard Cutting Arboretum in May 1971. Only five years ago it was and it brought together from distant points lilac friends and students. Until then lilac study was happenstance. Investigators (breeders, pathologists, nurserymen) relied upon their own resources. Now we have a team — two hundred plus strong — to support lilac research and to promote the planting and enjoyment of lilacs in home gardens.

Yes, it is marvelous that we have come together in order the better to share our love and knowledge of lilacs. This year, albeit more than 100 years since Victor Lemoine began his lilac breeding program, we still stand at the threshold of truly superior lilacs. What wonder lie ahead?! Some of our objectives are to popularize the lilac even more by discovering means of easy culture, smaller stature, repeat blooming, subtle fragrance, etc. When the non-gardener, the consumer, becomes aware of lilacs' intrinsic beauties and must possess a lilac of his own, then shall we have arrived!

But back to 1975. A few of the impending problems are (1) to grow more and better lilacs in our own little plots, (2) to exchange knowledge of lilac culture among ourselves, and (3) to publish our findings and promote lilacs in all their beauty, (4) to promote and distribute our lilac select propagations, (5) to work as a unified society. Toward these ends we need willing workers — for progress in not gratuitous but is achieved by the dedication of our talents to a worthy cause.

In the immediate offing is our fifth convention this year to be held in Rochester, New York. You will be richly rewarded for your effort in coming to Rochester, to see the superb collection of lilacs at Highland Park, Smith Road Nursery, and Grape Hill Farm, to greet other lilac friends and catch their enthusiasm and to learn more about lilacs. Director Grant and his staff at the Monroe County Parks have left no stone unturned to make your visit both exciting and pleasant. I look to greet you and encourage your direct participation in the affairs of ILS. We are once, again, returning to Rochester with its magnificent lilacs and splendid collections. This should be a most memorable year and we urge every member to come and bring along a friend or prospective member.

*Robert B. Clark*  
*President of International Lilac Society*

## A PREVIEW OF SOME LILACS OF THE FUTURE THE FENICCHIA HYBRIDS F<sub>3</sub>

*By Father John L. Fiala*

Those who attend the 1976 Lilac Convention at Rochester are in for a wonderful unveiling of another "newsbreak" in lilac hybrids, again, from the same genetic pool of that wonderful lilac 'Rochester.' In May of 1975 I had the privilege of viewing these magnificent seedlings with their hybridizer, Richard Fenicchia, who only a few years ago introduced the new F<sub>2</sub> Hybrids of the famous 'Rochester' plant of Alvan Grant, Director of Parks at Rochester. Dick hybridized the 'Rochester Strain' of which 'Dwight D. Eisenhower,' 'John Dunbar,' 'Barney Slavin,' 'Bishop McQuaid,' and 'George Ellwanger' were introduced in 1972. Since that time a whole new generation of F<sub>3</sub> Rochester Hybrids have bloomed and will be on display for the first time in 1976. Convention attenders will have a real treat in store with a special tour of the Smith Road Nursery by Dick Fenicchia, himself. It is certainly a lilac wonder of magnificent seedlings with several really new "breaks."

Walking through this lilac seedling wonderland one is overwhelmed by the variety, the colors and forms Dick has brought out in this field of seedlings. From a distance an enormously spiked (somewhat ball-shaped) creamy-white lilac stands above others with thyrsi larger than anything else I have ever seen in lilacs! What a magnificent display! Although a 'Rochester Strain' seedling, it is entirely different in form; considerably smaller florets yet, in total, a new form of thyrsus that certainly will add a new dimension to landscaping. Another outstanding 'break' is the silver-hued, or streaked florets of many seedlings that present a changeable, (I call it a chameleon like quality) that makes the blues, lavenders, and pinks iridescent with a silvery sheen as you view the flowers from different positions, like changing Teffeta or iridescent silk. Certainly there are some magnificent plant in this group worthy of being named and acclaimed as outstanding lilacs. There are pale blues striped with silvery white, pastel shades in many colors with multi-patterned florets of various hues and forms, many with the multi-petaled, primula florets so characteristic of 'Rochester.'

Everywhere there were outstanding whites standing out like giant candles of perfect form. This seedling field alone would be the dream, a life-time dream, of any hybridizer including Victor Lemoine. Society members are, indeed, privileged to have this private showing.

This field of Dick's seedlings are wonderfully vigorous plants with dark, strong foliage and from them should come many genetic qualities for the Lilacs of the Future! A sincere and well deserved, "Congratulations, Dick."

There are other lilac gems hidden away in this Smith Road Nursery — such as plants of the F<sub>2</sub> Hybrids, named and numbered plants; there are, also, some Russian introductions. Particularly, there is a species selection made by Dick Fenicchia of what was called "Hers Variety" (but is probably not) that had naturalized in Durand Park along the waterside. This is one of the darkest red-pinks in bud that I have seen for a species — it has long, gracefully trailing branches and should certainly be named and introduced.

One could spend a week in this veritable hybridizer's paradise and see something new and different each day. In 1972 Richard Fenicchia received the Lilac Society's highest award given for hybridizing, "THE DIRECTORS' AWARD," in recognition for his outstanding work with the 'Rochester Strain.' The new F<sub>3</sub> Hybrids show that this award was well given to an outstanding hybridist. Dick is a modest man, he

shows you with pride the magnificent seedlings and one rejoices with him and we know that Lilacs as beautiful as they now are still have a wonderful future for any hybridist who has Dick's patience and knowledge and his skill to put the right combinations together. Words are but feeble descriptions one can only say to those who love lilacs, "Come and see for yourself."

## THE LILACS OF GRAPE HILL FARM

### Collection of lilac beauty and love!

*By Fr. John L. Fiala, Editor*

One travels down the quite countryside of Clyde, New York, the drumlins raise their gravel humps, the road winds peacefully around green hills and meadows and suddenly one is confronted with an hillside of bloom and beauty. Grape Hill Farm is the home of Bill and Lois Utley who have been charter members and among the original founders of the Lilac Society. Their lilac collection is one of beauty, labor and love. In the rich gravelly soil that grows lilacs second to none they have painstakingly collected a magnificent planting of lilacs in the past years.

At Grape Hill one finds a wonderful selection of new and old lilacs. There is a comparative selection of several forms of "Lucie Baltet" planted in a row to see if there is really a difference in color or form or if these observed differences are merely cultural and regional. This same procedure has been done to verify the color of "Sensation." One walks among these flowering bushes and up the back hill to look down upon this beautiful collection. Truly Bill and Lois Utley have labored painstakingly in gathering this collection, and lavishly cared for it with love and patience. One of the side trips of the 1976 Convention will be to this fine collection to see lilacs in a different setting — all kinds of lilacs new and old, many rarely seen outside of larger botanical gardens. The wild geese fly northward, the nostalgia of the family's old Devereaux Winery and the memory of well grown vineyards, the barge canals seem to be a part of the countryside of Clyde and to these the smell of lilacs drifts among the drumlins — lilacs growing only as they do at Grape Hill Farm for Bill and Lois Utley. A side trip well worth the time!

## ROCHESTER CONVENTION LILAC AUCTION

The Lilac Auction this year will be a momentous one with many choice 'collector's items' in lilacs. Al Grant and Bob Haepfle have made available their cooperative services to help make it a success. Many really "choice" items will be auctioned — there are select clone plants of 'Sensation' and 'Lucie Baltet' (own root plants). The 'Sensation' plant source is from the DeWilde plant that came directly from Maarse the originator — it is a grand bloomer, excellent, robust plant with the finest floret color seen in this variety. Come prepared to take some of these fine, well rooted lilacs (some two and three years old) home with you. Members who have choice material for the auction are welcome to bring it with them — we are not seeking ordinary materials or those that can be purchased from nurseries.

## THE 'MISS KIM' LILAC

By Professor E. M. Meader  
Rochester, New Hampshire

It was November 11, 1947, a holiday in Seoul, Korea, where I was stationed as horticulturist for the U. S. Army Military Government. That meant a day free for hiking in the nearby Pouk Han Mountains. Early that morning a companion and I set out through the old city's North Gate with C-rations and canteens tied to our belts.

Up hill and down dale we followed well-trodden trails until we had scaled Paik Un Dae (white cloud point or peak), 892 meters in height. There stunted pines and shrubs grew in crevices where sufficient soil had clung to the craggy granite. On a cliff high above I spotted a lonesome upright shrub, shoulder high, neatly ensconced in a wide crack of rock. Two inches of snow had collected under the plant despite bare ground at lower elevations. As I examined its twigs and seed pods I knew it must be a lilac. Could the dried capsules still contain any seeds in such a windswept place? A diligent search rewarded me with a few, most had gone with the wind!

Back home in 1948 I planted my twelve precious seeds which I'd collected that previous Veterans' Day in Korea. Seven thrifty seeds sprouted. Five grew into tall upright plants like their parent in the Korean mountains. Two however, although strong and vigorous enough, were rather dwarf by comparison. All seedlings proved hardy, and in time bloomed — late, a full week or so after 'James Macfarlane.' The fragrant single flowers, purple in bud and when first open, fade to a blue-ice whiteness before falling.

One of the two law-stature seedlings bore dark green leaves with wavy margins. The foliage remained free of mildew all summer, and turned Burgundy red in autumn for a delightful display. I named it 'Miss Kim,' since "Kim" is a most common family name in Korea. There are thousands of Misses Kim, many could easily win a Beauty Queen contest if such were ever held in that country.

'Miss Kim,' released in 1954 by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, became the first named cultivar of what goes in the nursery trade as *Syringa Palibiniana Nakai*. For a further discussion of its affinities see Owen Rogers' report in International Lilac Society Proceedings, volume 1, number 5, pages 23-26, 1972.

When one contemplates this extremely limited sampling of lilacs growing wild in the Pouk Han mountains, further plant exploration in Korea for valuable germ plasm might well be considered.

The National Council of State Garden Clubs advises everyone to "Plant a Liberty Tree" to "Keep America's ideals deeprooted" for the bicentennial Arbor Day 1976. As I.L.S. president advises us in the December issue of "Pipeline," I.L.S. regional vice-president Lourene Wisharturges the planting of a Japanese Tree Lilac. As lilac lovers we should support *Syringa Reticulata*, formerly called *Syringa Amurensis Japonica* (not to be confused with the standard or tree form of *Palibiniani* advertized by some nurseries) as the ideal choice.

As part of the convention, we shall visit the Sonnenberg Gardens of Canandaigua. According to the custom of Mrs. Sonnenberg, when she was alive, of having guests plant a tree before leaving; we have been asked to plant a *Syringa Reticulata* on the grounds, as part of our visit.

William Utley  
1976 convention chairman



**"LILAC KALEIDOSCOPE"**

Among the overseas members which have joined the International Lilac society recently is Mr. Peter Upitis of Dobeles, Latvia. Mr. Upitis is a professional horticulturist with the trial and selection laboratory for tree fruits and small fruits (free translation, F.V.) at Dobeles, some 50 miles west of Riga.

One should appreciate that a comparable latitude would put Dobeles near Juneau, Alaska, on this continent.

*(back cover- Thousands of tulips spell  
I.L.S. welcome at Lombard Park )*

