



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XI, No. 4, April, 1985

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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President: Thomas N. Chieppo,
P.O. Box 164
New Haven, Connecticut 06501-0164

Secretary: Walter W. Oakes*
Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276

Treasurer: Mrs. Marie Chaykowski
4041 Winchell Road, Mantua, Ohio 44255

Editor: Charles D. Holetich,
c/o R.B.G., Box 399,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY,
William A. Utley, Ex. Vice-Pres.,
Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433

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Single annual	\$ 10.00
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LILACS AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

by Jack Alexander

When the Arnold Arboretum was established in 1872 there already were lilacs on the property. They had been planted in hedge-rows by Benjamin Bussey who acquired the land in 1806 and probably planted them soon after. Some of these hedges can still be seen on the east side of what we now call Bussey Hill.

The area where the Arboretum's lilac collection is now, was planted in 1900 and many of the lilacs that can be seen there date from that time. The oldest lilac in the collection is the Japanese Tree Lilac (Syringa reticulata) near the forsythias. This plant (AA #1111) was started in 1876 from seed collected in Japan.

Lilacs are so popular and so widely grown in New England that many people are surprised to learn that no lilacs are native here. Just as the ancestors of most New Englanders came from Europe and Asia, so too did the forebears of our beloved lilacs. There are 24 different species of lilacs. Two species are native to Europe; the rest to Asia.

The common lilac (Syringa vulgaris) is one of the European species. It hails from the vicinity of the Balkans. It is this species and hybrids of it that were so often grown and selected by French nurserymen that their country became synonymous with fine lilacs; those that we know as "French Hybrids." The term French hybrid now commonly includes lilacs of that type even though they may not have been bred in France.

There are over 700 lilac plants of about 500 different kinds in the Arnold Arboretum collections. These include approximately 450 cultivars, selected by nurserymen and hybridizers for certain horticultural merits such as flower size or color. The remaining 50

kinds include 22 species and their varieties which occur naturally in true breeding populations.

The collection is open to public from sunrise to sunset. Majority of lilacs will be at their best from May 15 to May 25. For precise information about current year expected peak of bloom phone during the first half of May (617) 524-1717.

Two of the most often asked questions about lilacs are "when should I prune?" and "why doesn't my plant flower?" The lilacs at the Arnold Arboretum are pruned immediately after flowering. When major pruning is required, we remove at ground level, about one-third of the oldest stems each year for three years. This encourages the growth of vigorous new stems from the base and by the end of the three years the plant should be fully rejuvenated. To insure an abundance of flowers, we prune off all spent blossoms. This practice eliminates seed formation and routes the energy usually spent on seeds to next year's flower production. If this is not done, good flowering years may be followed by bad.

Now, why didn't your plant flower this year? Is it in full sun? Lilacs do best with plenty of light. Was it planted last year or the year before? The first year after planting, lilacs may bloom from buds formed in the nursery. It may take two or even three years after planting for it to become well established in its new site. Other possible problems include not enough or too much fertilizer. Soil pH may affect the plants growth; lilacs do well with a soil pH of 6-8. New England soils are frequently very acid and may require some modification for best lilac growth. Contact your County Extension Service for soil testing information.

The Arnold Arboretum is administered by Harvard University and is a part of the Boston park system, but no financial support is derived from either the University or the City. All costs of operation, research, education, display and distribution of plants, are met

by income from the endowment of the Arboretum and by the generous support of the FRIENDS OF THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM.

For more information about the lilac collection write to Jack Alexander, Propagator, The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, The Arborway, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130 U.S.A., or phone (617) 524-3108.

LIST OF LILACS
AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM

SYRINGA CV. A. B. LAMBERTON
SYRINGA CV. A. M. BRAND
SYRINGA CV. ABEL CARRIERE
SYRINGA CV. ADELAIDE DUMBAR
SYRINGA CV. AGNES SMITH
SYRINGA CV. ALADDIN
SYRINGA CV. ALBA GRANDIFLORA
SYRINGA CV. ALBA VIRGINALIS
SYRINGA CV. ALEXANDERS ARISTOCRAT
SYRINGA CV. ALICE
SYRINGA CV. ALICE EASTWOOD
SYRINGA CV. ALPHONSE LAVALLEE
SYRINGA CV. AMBASSADEUR
SYRINGA CV. AMBROISE VERSCHAFFELT
SYRINGA CV. AMETHYST
SYRINGA CV. AMI SCHOTT
SYRINGA CV. AMOENA
SYRINGA CV. ANDENKEN AN LUDWIG SPAETH
SYRINGA CV. ANNA AMHOFF
SYRINGA CV. ANNA NICKLES
SYRINGA CV. ANNABEL
SYRINGA CV. ANNE SHIACH
SYRINGA CV. ANNE TIGHE
SYRINGA CV. ARIEL
SYRINGA CV. ASSESSIPPI
SYRINGA CV. ASTRA
SYRINGA CV. AUCUBAEFOLIA
SYRINGA CV. AUREA
SYRINGA CV. AZUREA PLENA
SYRINGA CV. BANQUISE
SYRINGA CV. BEACON

SYRINGA CV. BELLE DE NANCY
SYRINGA CV. BELLICENT
SYRINGA CV. BERANGER
SYRINGA CV. BERRYER
SYRINGA CV. BERTHA PHAIR
SYRINGA CV. BICOLOR
SYRINGA CV. BLEUATRE
SYRINGA CV. BLUE HYACINTH
SYRINGA CV. BOULE AZUREE
SYRINGA CV. BOUNTIFUL
SYRINGA CV. BOUSSINGAULT
SYRINGA CV. BUFFON
SYRINGA CV. C. B. VAN NES
SYRINGA CV. CALPURNIA
SYRINGA CV. CALVIN C. LANEY
SYRINGA CV. CAPITAIN BALTET
SYRINGA CV. CAPITAIN PERRAULT
SYRINGA CV. CARLTON
SYRINGA CV. CARMEN
SYRINGA CV. CARMINE
SYRINGA CV. CATINAT
SYRINGA CV. CAVOUR
SYRINGA CV. CELIA
SYRINGA CV. CHARLES BALTET
SYRINGA CV. CHARLES HEPBURN
SYRINGA CV. CHARLES JOLY
SYRINGA CV. CHARLES NORDINE
SYRINGA CV. CHARLOTTE MORGAN
SYRINGA CV. CHARM
SYRINGA CV. CHARMIAN
SYRINGA CV. CHRIS
SYRINGA CV. CHRISTOPHE COLOMB
SYRINGA CV. CHURCHILL

SYRINGA CV. CITY OF GRESHAM
SYRINGA CV. CITY OF KELSO
SYRINGA CV. CITY OF LONGVIEW
SYRINGA CV. CITY OF OLYMPIA
SYRINGA CV. CLARA COCHET
SYRINGA CV. CLAUDE BERNARD
SYRINGA CV. CLAUDE DE LORRAIN
SYRINGA CV. COERULEA SUPERBA
SYRINGA CV. COL. W. R. PLUM
SYRINGA CV. COLBERT
SYRINGA CV. COLMARIENSIS
SYRINGA CV. CORTE ADRIEN DE MONTEBELLO
SYRINGA CV. CORTESSE HORACE DE CHOISEUI
SYRINGA CV. CONDORCET
SYRINGA CV. CONGO
SYRINGA CV. CONSTANCE
SYRINGA CV. CORINNE
SYRINGA CV. CRANPEL
SYRINGA CV. CRAYTON RED
SYRINGA CV. CREPUSCULE
SYRINGA CV. CROIX DE BRAHY
SYRINGA CV. DAME BLANCHE
SYRINGA CV. DAPHNE PINK
SYRINGA CV. DAWN
SYRINGA CV. DE CRONCELS
SYRINGA CV. DE JUSSIEU
SYRINGA CV. DE LOUVAIN
SYRINGA CV. DE MIRIBEL
SYRINGA CV. DE SAUSSURE
SYRINGA CV. DESDERONA
SYRINGA CV. DEUIL D'EMILE GALLE
SYRINGA CV. DIANE
SYRINGA CV. DIDEROT
SYRINGA CV. DIPLOMATE
SYRINGA CV. DONALD WYMAN
SYRINGA CV. DORCAS
SYRINGA CV. DOYEN KETELEER
SYRINGA CV. DR. CHARLES JACOBS
SYRINGA CV. DR. LINDLEY
SYRINGA CV. DR. MAILLOT
SYRINGA CV. DR. VON REGEL
SYRINGA CV. DUC DE MASSA
SYRINGA CV. EARLIEST EVANGELINE
SYRINGA CV. EARLY DOUBLE WHITE
SYRINGA CV. EDITH CAVELL
SYRINGA CV. EDOUARD ANDRE
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SYRINGA CV. ELINOR
SYRINGA CV. ELLEN WILLMOTT
SYRINGA CV. EMIL LIEBIG
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SYRINGA CV. ENID
SYRINGA CV. ESTHER STALEY
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SYRINGA CV. ETOILE DE MAI
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SYRINGA CV. FANTASY
SYRINGA CV. FLOREAL
SYRINGA CV. FLORENCE CHRISTINE

SYRINGA CV. FOUNTAIN
SYRINGA CV. FRANCISCA
SYRINGA CV. FRANZ CHOPIN
SYRINGA CV. FRAU WILHELM PFITZER
SYRINGA CV. FRED L. KLAGER
SYRINGA CV. FRED PAYNE
SYRINGA CV. FRITZ
SYRINGA CV. FRYDERYK CHOPIN
SYRINGA CV. FUERST LIECHTENSTEIN
SYRINGA CV. GAUDICHAUD
SYRINGA CV. GEANT DES BATAILLES
SYRINGA CV. GEHEIMRAT HEYDER
SYRINGA CV. GEHEIMRAT SINGELMANN
SYRINGA CV. GENERAL ELWELL S. OTIS
SYRINGA CV. GENERAL KITCHENER
SYRINGA CV. GENERAL PERSHING
SYRINGA CV. GENERAL SHERMAN
SYRINGA CV. GEORGE W. ALDRIDGE
SYRINGA CV. GEORGES BELLAIR
SYRINGA CV. GEORGES CLAUDE
SYRINGA CV. GIGANTEA
SYRINGA CV. GILBERT
SYRINGA CV. GLOIRE DE LORRAINE
SYRINGA CV. GLOIRE DE MOULINS
SYRINGA CV. GLORY
SYRINGA CV. GRACE ORTHWAITE
SYRINGA CV. GRAND DUC CONSTANTIN
SYRINGA CV. GRISHONDA
SYRINGA CV. GUINEYERE
SYRINGA CV. GUIZOT
SYRINGA CV. H. ZABEL
SYRINGA CV. HANDEL
SYRINGA CV. HECLA
SYRINGA CV. HEDIN
SYRINGA CV. HENRI MARTIN
SYRINGA CV. HENRI ROBERT
SYRINGA CV. HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW
SYRINGA CV. HENRY WARD BEECHER
SYRINGA CV. HERMAN EILERS
SYRINGA CV. HIAWATHA
SYRINGA CV. HIPPOLYTE MARINGER
SYRINGA CV. HORTENSIA
SYRINGA CV. HUGO DE VRIES
SYRINGA CV. HUGO KOSTER
SYRINGA CV. HUNTING TOWER
SYRINGA CV. HYAZINTHENFLIEDER
SYRINGA CV. I. V. MICHURIN
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SYRINGA CV. K. A. TIMIRIAZEV
SYRINGA CV. KAPRIZ
SYRINGA CV. KATE HARLIN
SYRINGA CV. KATE SESSIONS

SYRINGA CV. KATHERINE HAVEMEYER
SYRINGA CV. KEN BERDEEN
SYRINGA CV. KONSOMOLKA
SYRINGA CV. KRASAVITSA MOSKVY
SYRINGA CV. L'ONCLE TOM
SYRINGA CV. LA TOUR D'AUVERGNE
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SYRINGA CV. POCAHONTAS
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SYRINGA CV. RUHM VON HORSTENSTEIN
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SYRINGA CV. SENATEUR VOLLAND
SYRINGA CV. SENSATION
SYRINGA CV. SILVER KING
SYRINGA CV. SILVIA
SYRINGA CV. SOUV. DE CLAUDIUS GRAINDORGE
SYRINGA CV. SOUV. DE GASPARD CALLOT
SYRINGA CV. SOUV. DE SIMONE
SYRINGA CV. SOUVENIR DE L. THIBAUT
SYRINGA CV. SOVETZIA ARTICA
SYRINGA CV. SPECTABILIS
SYRINGA CV. SPLENDOR
SYRINGA CV. STAOTGARTNER ROTHPLETZ
SYRINGA CV. STEFAN MAKOWIECKI
SYRINGA CV. SULTE
SYRINGA CV. SUMIERKI
SYRINGA CV. SUNSET
SYRINGA CV. SWEETHEART
SYRINGA CV. TANKMAN
SYRINGA CV. THOMAS JEFFERSON
SYRINGA CV. THUNBERG
SYRINGA CV. TODMORDEN
SYRINGA CV. TOM TAYLOR
SYRINGA CV. TOURNEFORT
SYRINGA CV. TOUSSAINT LOUVERTURE
SYRINGA CV. TRIOMPHE D'ORLEANS
SYRINGA CV. TRIOMPHE DE MOULINS
SYRINGA CV. TURENNE
SYRINGA CV. TURGOT
SYRINGA CV. URSULA
SYRINGA CV. VALERIA
SYRINGA CV. VALETTEANA
SYRINGA CV. VAUBAN
SYRINGA CV. VERGISSMEINMICHT
SYRINGA CV. VERSALIENSIS
SYRINGA CV. VERSCHAFFELTI
SYRINGA CV. VESTALE
SYRINGA CV. VICTOR LEMOINE
SYRINGA CV. VILLARS
SYRINGA CV. VIRGINIA BECKER
SYRINGA CV. VIRGINITE
SYRINGA CV. VIVIAN EVANS
SYRINGA CV. VOLCAN
SYRINGA CV. W. T. LEE
SYRINGA CV. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU
SYRINGA CV. WHITE SWAN
SYRINGA CV. WILLIAM C. BARRY
SYRINGA CV. WILLIAM H. JUDD
SYRINGA CV. WILLIAM ROBINSON
SYRINGA CV. WILLIAM S. RILEY
SYRINGA CV. ZNAMIA LENINA
SYRINGA CV. ZUKUNFT
SYRINGA CV. ZULU

SYRINGA EMOOI
SYRINGA JOSIKAEA
SYRINGA JOSIKAEA F. EXIMIA
SYRINGA JULIANAE
SYRINGA KOMAROVII
SYRINGA LACINIATA
SYRINGA LACINIATA X S. VULGARIS
SYRINGA MEYERI
SYRINGA MEYERI CV. PALIBIN
SYRINGA MICROPHYLLA
SYRINGA MICROPHYLLA VAR. SUPERBA
SYRINGA MICROPHYLLA X S. MEYERI
SYRINGA OBLATA
SYRINGA OBLATA VAR. DILATATA
SYRINGA PEKINENSIS
SYRINGA PEKINENSIS F. PENDULA
SYRINGA PINETORUM
SYRINGA POTANINII
SYRINGA PUBESCENS
SYRINGA REFLEXA
SYRINGA REFLEXA VAR. ALBA
SYRINGA RETICULATA
SYRINGA RETICULATA VAR. MANDSHURICA
SYRINGA RHODOPEA
SYRINGA SP.
SYRINGA SWEGINBRETTEA
SYRINGA SWEGINZOWII
SYRINGA SWEGINZOWII VAR. DENSIFLORA

SYRINGA TIGERSTEDTII
SYRINGA TOMENTELLA
SYRINGA TOMENTELLA VAR. ROSEA
SYRINGA VELUTINA
SYRINGA VELUTINA VAR. EXCELLENS
SYRINGA VELUTINA X S. PUBESCENS
SYRINGA VILLOSA
SYRINGA VILLOSA X
SYRINGA VILLOSA X S. VULGARIS CV. GLORY
SYRINGA VULGARIS
SYRINGA VULGARIS F. PURPUREA
SYRINGA VULGARIS VAR.
SYRINGA VULGARIS VAR. NANA
SYRINGA WOLFFII
SYRINGA WOLFFII VAR. HIRSUTA
SYRINGA X CHINENSIS
SYRINGA X CHINENSIS F. ALBA
SYRINGA X CHINENSIS F. SAUGEANA
SYRINGA X CHINENSIS VAR. METENSIS
SYRINGA X DIVERSIFOLIA
SYRINGA X HENRYI
SYRINGA X HENRYI X S. TOMENTELLA CV. GERMINAL
SYRINGA X HYACINTHIFLORA
SYRINGA X JOSIFLEXA VAR. RUBRA
SYRINGA X PRESTONIAE
SYRINGA X SKINNERI
SYRINGA X SWEGIFLEXA
SYRINGA YUNNANENSIS
SYRINGA YUNNANENSIS VAR. ROSEA

* * * * *

BITS OF WIT

- The more you pound the desk, the less weight you carry.
- Many know how to flatter; few know how to praise.
- The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.
- If you don't have time to do something right, when will you have the time to do it over?
- Don't let a loose tongue get you into a tight spot.

AUCTION COMMITTEE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP IN
MEMORY OF WILLIAM EMERSON

In recognition and memory of the outstanding work done for ILS by William Emerson we are proposing an educational scholarship at the University of New Hampshire. We will ask Owen Rogers to select the recipient and do the honour of presenting the scholarship to the winner. We ask all who knew Bill to contribute to this scholarship fund. Please make cheque payable to ILS and mail it to:

Colonel Hanssen Schenker
Route 1 Box 130
Freedom
New Hampshire 03336

by Hanssen Schenker
Auction Committee
Chairman

YOU CAN HELP TOO

Affairs of ILS are run on a volunteer basis. Many contribute hundreds of hours to keep it active.

Please use this opportunity to renew your 1985 membership on your own initiative.

Check the address label on the envelope in which you receive monthly "Lilac Newsletter". If it reads Dec. 84 then you are due to renew 1985 membership.

Check inside front cover of the publication for the amount and membership classification.

American members mail cheques to Walter W. Oakes
Box 315, Rumford, ME 04276.

Canadian members mail cheques to Charles D. Holetich
c/o Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399 Hamilton, Ontario
L8N 3H8.

Make cheque payable to International Lilac Society. It takes 3-5 weeks to process the payment. If you renewed in the past month or so we thank you.

Yours cheerily and hard working,
Charles D. Holetich,
ILS membership chairman, Editor,
Publication manager, etc. etc. etc.

IN MEMORIAM

Fred Lape, founder and director of the George Landis Arboretum at Esperance, New York, and a long-time member of ILS, died peacefully last month in his winter home at Jocotepec, Jalisco, Mexico. He was in his 85th year. He left no immediate relatives, but his passing will sadden many of his lilac-loving friends who knew him for his infectious joviality and respected his acute and broad knowledge of plants and literature, arts and culture. He wrote the only book I know on arboretums, entitled "A garden of trees and shrubs". He also wrote books of reminiscences on apples as well as early life in Upstate New York. The George Landis Arboretum is his enduring monument.

BELATED NEWS

Just recently we have learned that Joseph Dvorak Jr. parted with us in October 1984.

Many will remember J. Dvorak Jr. by his excellent delineated drawings of florets and inflorescence of many lilac cultivars. This work which was done at Morton Arboretum and Lilacia Park resulted in publication of an 84 page book titled "Lilac Study" published in 1978 under auspice of I.L.S. as a special scientific publication.

In the early 1950's he moved from Belmont (suburb of Chicago) to Olympia, Washington where he spent most of his remaining years. Though he was not active within the I.L.S., the work he produced and suggestions he offered about where to continue in lilac study will stay with us for generations to come.

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