



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XI, No. 9, September, 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*.

This publication, *LILAC NEWSLETTER* (formerly *THE PIPELINE*) is issued monthly. Back copies are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mr. Charles Holetich, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. L8N 3H8. Please send 50 cents for each copy requested.

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*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary

MANY THANKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The International Lilac Society is a small but great and unique organization. It is comprised of individuals who are simple, honest, helpful, caring and humble. They are just my kind of people, and the main reason why I am looking forward to each annual meeting with renewed enthusiasm.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank each and every one for the confidence coupled to support and bestwishes directed to me upon election to presidency.

As I return (Oct. 5th) from my summer vacation (hopefully rested and charged with new ideas), I will call upon you to do your fair share of the Society's workload.

Cordially and Gratefully,

Charles D. Holetich



EDITOR'S NOTE

It has happened. September is here and we don't have a permanent Newsletter editor as yet. Clearly the Newsletter must continue but my time is severely curtailed by the responsibilities by which I earn my living. The Newsletter will continue, it is too important to stop; however, it is going to get drastically thinner beginning with the October issue.

There is one way you can all help this situation and that is by writing the Newsletter yourselves. If you will send in news, comments, gossip or heresy, I'll publish it for all to read. As a suggestion of specific topics to which you might want to respond, I've included two articles, one on removing lilac seed pods and one on lilacs to recommend. Respond and the Newsletter stays fat, put it off and the Newsletter goes on a starvation diet.

P. S. Did you know that while this issue is being written our glorious President is gallivanting around Europe? I'm sure he plans to bring back a little something for us all.

CULTIVAR NAMES OF LEMOINE LILACS, PART III

Robert B. Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

Soon after the United States of America gained its independence their French allies staged a revolution of their own. This third list contains the names of many of these heroes and statesmen.

Prominent Personalities of Republican France
Commemorated in Lemoine Cultivars

- 99 La Tour d'Auvergne, Theophile Malo Corret, 1743-1800, "The First Grenadier"
- 199 Toussaint L'Ouverture, Pierre Dominique Francois, 1743-1803, Haitian Liberator, President of Republic of Haiti
- 35 Condorcet, Jean Antoine Nicholas de Caritat, 1743-1794, French philosopher
- 129 Mirabeau, Honoré Gabriel Riquette, Comte de, 1749-1791, French orator and revolutionary
- 76 Gilbert, Nicholas Joseph Laurent, 1751-1780, French satiric poet
- 165 Carnot, Lazare Nicholas Marguerite, 1753-1823, revolutionary general: "Le Grand Carnot" (See Monument Carnot, Part I)
- 122 Massena, André, 1758-1817, Napoleonic general
- 40 Danton, Georges Jacques, 1759-1794, victim of tyranny he helped to organize
- 115 Marceau, Francois Severin Desgraviers, 1769-1796, French general at age 24, one of the finest figures of the Revolution
- 119 Lannes, Jean, Duc de Montebello, 1769-1809, Marshal of France 1804 once a stable boy
- 71 Drouot, Antoine, Gen., 1774-1847, "Sage of the Grand Army" according to Napoleon
- 81 Guizot, Francois Pierre Guillaume, 1787-1874, chief advisor to Louis Philippe

- 12 Berryer, Pierre Antoine, 1790-1868, French orator and statesman
- 96 Lamartine, Alphonse Marie Louis Prat de, 1790-1869, poet, minister of foreign affairs in Second Republic
- 195 Taglioni, Marie, Countess des Voisins, 1804-1884, Italian ballerina
- 167 Grevy, Francois Paul Jules, 1807-1891, President of France 1879-1887
- 37 Crampel, Paul, French explorer died in Africa
- 21 Cavour, Camillo Benso, Conte di, 1810-1861, Italian statesman who unified Italy
- 82 Martin, Bon Louis HENRI, 1810-1883, French historian: "Histoire de France"
- 91 Simon, Suisse JULES Francois, 1814-1896, professor and author, Second Premier of Third Republic 1876
- 168 Hayes, Rutherford Birchard, 1822-1893, U. S. President, 1877-1881
- 57 About, Edmond Francois Valentine, 1828-1885, French satirist
- 44 Miribel, de, 1831-1893, general with organizational ability
- 104 Gambetta, Leon, 1832-1882, French lawyer and statesman who proclaimed the Third Republic
- 90 Ferry, Jules Francois Camille, 1832-1893, French Premier, 1880-1, '83-5
- 165 Carnot, Marie Francois SADI, 1837-1894, President 1878-1894, grandson of "le Grand Carnot"
- 169 Loubet, Émile, 1837-1929, President 1899-1906
- 166 Fallieres, Clement Armand, 1841-1926, President 1906-1913
- 171 Viger, Albert, M.D., 1843-1926, Minister of Agriculture, 1893-1899
- 211 Waldeck-Rousseau, Pierre Marie René Ernst, 1846-1904, Premier 1899-1902
- 134 Casimir-Perier, Jean Pierre Paul, 1847-1907, Premier 1894-1902

- 118 Foch, Ferdinand, 1851-1929, Marshal of France et Grande Bretagne
and Allied Forces during World War I
- 159 Deschanel, Paul Eugene Louis, 1856-1922, President 1899-1902
- 170 Poincaré, Raymond, 1860-1934, President 1913-1920
- 72 Pershing, John Joseph, 1860-1948, U. S. General of the Armies 1917
- 80 Constantin, Grand Duc, 1861-1923, King of Greece
- 124 Barres, August Maurice, 1862-1923, French novelist and statesman
- 56 Cavell, Edith Louisa, 1862-1915, English nurse executed as a spy
during World War I
- 60 Gentil, Émile, 1866-1914, Explorer, French Congo Commissioner



WORLD'S LILAC COLLECTIONS

Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew

"Come down to Kew in lilac time." The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew have included lilacs in their collection for many years. Alton recorded two species in 1768 and they had nine species in 1810. For many years, however, the collection was restricted to species and species hybrids and it was only recently through the efforts of Peter Green that Kew enlarged its collection to include cultivars.

Kew is located in Richmond, Surrey about 15 minutes by rail or underground from London. The grounds are open to the public from 10 a.m. to dusk for a very small entrance charge. The lilacs begin bloom early in May (about three weeks earlier than Boston) and continue into June. With their cool, cloudy weather, it is possible to see early, mid season and late vulgaris bloom times which in this country are compressed into a much shorter time by our warmer springs. The following list was prepared by Mr. C. M. Erskine, the Assistant Curator in charge of the Arboretum. His address is the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England TW9 3AB.

The list includes afghanica which is probably not correct and pinetorum which is also a questionable name. You can decide when you "come down to Kew."

Syringa Collection
Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew

Syringa
oblata
afghanica
emodi
josikaea
josikaea 'Pallida'
julianae
laciniata
meyeri 'Palibin'
microphylla

Syringa
oblata
oblata var. dilatata
oblata var. alba
oblata var. oblata
patula
pekinensis
pinetorum
pinnatifolia
potaninii

Syringa

pubescens
 reflexa
 reflexa var. alba
 reticulata
 reticulata var. mandshurica
 sweginzowii
 tomentella

Syringa vulgaris

'Andenken an Ludwig Späth'
 'Candeur'
 'Mme. Felix'
 'Ambassadeur'
 'Aurea'
 'Capitaine Baltet'
 'Charles Joly'
 'Congo'
 'Danton'
 'Diplomate'
 'Dr. Charles Jacobs'
 'Edith Cavell'
 'Etna'
 'Firmament'
 'Ruhm von Horstenstein'
 'Hugo Koster'
 'John Dunbar'
 'Katherine Havemeyer'
 'Lucie Baltet'
 'Marachal Foch'

Syringa

velutina
 velutina var. venosa
 villosa
 villosa var. rosea
 vulgaris
 wolfii var. hirsuta
 yunnanensis

'Maud Notcutt'
 'Miss Ellen Willmott'
 'Mme. Antoine Buchner'
 'Mme. Charles Souchet'
 'Mme. F. Morel'
 'Mme. Felix'
 'Mme. Florent Stepman'
 'Mons J de Messemaeker'
 'Mrs. Edward Harding'
 'Paul Deschanel'
 'Primrose'
 'Reaumur'
 'Rochester'
 'Senateur Volland'
 'Sensation'
 'Souvenir de Alice Harding'
 'Toussaint L'Ouverture'
 'Vestale'
 'Virginite'
 'Volcan'

Syringa

x chinensis
 x diversifolia 'William H. Judd'
 x henryi
 x hyacinthiflora 'Esther Staley'
 x hyacinthiflora 'Blue Hyacinth'
 x hyacinthiflora 'Buffon'

x hyacinthiflora 'Clarkes Giant'
 x hyacinthiflora 'Esther Staley'
 x persica
 x persica 'Alba'
 x prestoniae

SHOULD YOU REMOVE LILAC SEED PODS?

Owen M. Rogers

There are members of ILS who believe that next year's bloom will be improved by removing seed pods while others (your editor included) believe that pod removal has absolutely no effect on the amount of bloom the following year. What do you think?

Some lilacs naturally have a biennial flowering pattern. Individual branches or sometimes the whole shrub will bloom heavily one year and then only sparsely the next. This pattern is more common in older varieties and species. Many of the newer varieties are good annual bloomers and can be depended upon to produce a good crop of flowers each year. In both cases experience at the University of New Hampshire has shown that removal of seed pods will not change that pattern in any substantial way. You can do the experiment yourself. Soon after flowering select a branch that bloomed well and remove the pods from half the shoots. It doesn't matter whether you divide them left or right, but be sure to label them. Many of the confusions in the matter come from poor memory when a nonflowering branch is noticed to have many seed pods and people immediately think that if they had only removed the seed pods last spring the branch would have bloomed this spring.

There can be a cosmetic reason for pod removal if the viewer objects to seeing last year's seed pods. I tend to remove pods on my lilacs up to eye level. Then I don't see any when up close and ignore the upper ones when I am viewing them from a distance.

However, we are still left with this problem of seed pod removal. Would you do two things. First, write and tell me your ideas and experiences and second, plan to do a small experiment next spring so you'll have some facts upon which to act and not just do it because it "seems so logical."

Editor's Note: The following is an abstract of a paper presented at the International Propagators Society by John Einset and Jack Alexander, both of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum. It represents a breakthrough in tissue culture propagation of lilacs and you will be hearing more about it in the future as the technique becomes better known and further developed. This teaser is to make you aware of developments and let you know that a member of ILS was there when the technique was developed.

I have the full paper and it will be published in the Plant Propagators if you'd like to see the whole thing with all the details.

MULTIPLICATION OF SYRINGA VARIETIES AND SPECIES
IN TISSUE CULTURES

John W. Einset and John H. Alexander, III

ABSTRACT

A micropropagation method for Syringa x hyacinthiflora cv. Excel is described involving cytokinin control of shoot growth in tissue cultures. Shoot tips and nodes from rooted cuttings are decontaminated in 0.5% sodium hypochlorite and transferred to nutrient medium supplemented with 2.2 μ M thidiazuron. Under defined conditions of light intensity, photoperiod and temperature, shoots elongate from preformed buds to produce monopodial axes and then lateral buds form in the axils of leaves. After 6 weeks incubation, shoots can be used as sources of bud explants for further shoot multiplication or as cuttings. Plantlets produced after induction of roots on cuttings then are gradually acclimated to the greenhouse environment. Shoots of other members of Oleaceae such as additional cultivars of Syringa, S. reticulata and species of Fraxinus, Forsythia and Ligustrum also respond in tissue cultures to these treatments suggesting that the method may be generally applicable.

RECOMMENDED LILACS

Owen M. Rogers

The two most often asked questions are 1. What lilac should I grow and 2. Where can I buy it. Taking those questions one at a time I'd like to get your ideas about a basic list of lilacs to recommend. This would be the list for people who are just starting or who do not have access to usual lilac plantings and who must rely on commercial sources for the plants. I have reproduced the list that resulted from a survey by Mr. Frank Niedz in 1970 and which was published in Horticulture. More recently (1978) it was also published in the American Horticulturist and appears as the recommended list in Michael Dirr's book, "Manual of Woody Landscape Plants." It has, therefore, been seen by many people and will remain as "the list" unless a better one is proposed. If anyone is to propose a better list, it ought to be the International Lilac Society. So, this month, here is the Syringa vulgaris cultivar list. You will see that there is also provision for you to send in changes. Please do so even if you have only one name to put forth. Also, should any names be deleted? There is a limit to the number of names we can have on any workable list so if you want a new one to go on, which one should go off?

I'd also appreciate a note on what other lilac lists should be available. Should there be a list of the absolute best without regard to whether a source exists? Could we come up with a list of new promising cultivars? Should we try to tackle this selection process next spring at Hamilton where they have about 700 kinds on the grounds? You tell me.

COLOR	DOUBLE	SINGLE
White	'Ellen Willmott'	'Vestale'
	'Edith Cavell'	'Jan Van Tol'
	'Mme. Lemoine'	'Mont Blanc'
Violette	'Violetta'	'De Miribel'
	'Maréchal Lannes'	'Cavour'

COLOR	DOUBLE	SINGLE
Blue	'Ami Schott' 'Olivier De Serres' 'Prés. Grévy'	'Pres. Lincoln' 'Firmament' 'Decaisne'
Lilac	'Victor Lemoine' 'Henri Martin' 'Léon Gambetta' 'Alphonse Lavallée'	'Christophe Columb' 'Jacques Callott'
Pink	'Mme. Antoine Buchner' 'Katherine Havemeyer' 'Montaigne' 'Belle De Nancy'	'Lucie Baltet' 'Macrostachya'
Magenta	'Paul Thirion' 'Charles Joly' 'Prés. Poincairé'	'Capitaine Baltet' 'Mme. F. Morel' 'Congo'
Purple	'Adelaide Dunbar' 'Paul Hariot'	'Ludwig Spaeth' 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall' 'Night' 'Monge'

Your Recommendations or Changes

COLOR	DOUBLE	SINGLE
White	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Violet	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Blue	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Lilac	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Pink	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Magenta	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Purple	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Mail to Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Plant Science Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824.

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