



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XIV, No. 2, February, 1988

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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Single annual	\$ 10.00
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For poet Amy Lowell, lilacs were so alluring they could "poetry out a bit of moonlight."

Here are some of the most spectacular places in the United States and Canada to see a profusion of lilacs of all colors.

In terms of variety, the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington/Hamilton, Ontario, offers the premier collection of lilacs in this hemisphere, and perhaps in the world. Most of the more than 1,000 specimens of over 750 different lilacs are nestled in a pleasant dell in the gardens, where they are showcased every year during Lilac Week (May 21 to 29). For schedules and further information on the collection, contact Charles Holetich at the Arboretum, (416) 527-1158, Extension 127.

Mid-May is just the right time to see lilacs at the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont. Here over 400 bushes are grouped in natural settings around the restored 18th- and 19th-century homes and shops that dot the museum grounds. Call for further information, (802) 985-3344 or 3346.

Highland Park in Rochester, New York, has one of the oldest and most elegant lilac displays in the country - a fact that is celebrated citywide with great pride during Lilac Time, a ten-day festival held this year May 13 to 22. For details, call the Chamber of Commerce, (716) 546-3070.

Smaller but delightfully choice selections of lilacs are on view both at the New York Botanical Gardens, (212) 110-8700, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, (718) 622-4433. These plantings usually peak around Mother's Day.

LILAC SUNDAY, MAY 22

One of the largest and most beautiful lilac gardens in New England can be viewed at Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain near Boston. Open to the public all year round, the arboretum issues a free invitation to visitors to picnic on the grounds and enjoy the magnificent blossoms on Lilac Sunday, May 22. This year the arboretum is experimenting with the creation of thematic beds, grouping plants in special mini-collections. Of special interest will be the "50 Best Lilacs for New England." You can expect to find the lilacs in bloom at the Arnold through the first weeks of June. For more information, call the arboretum at (617) 524-1718.

Pride of Moscow - Beauty of Moscow
Separate Cultivars

Charles Holetich writes about a possible mixup in the names of two Russian lilacs. He writes:

In free translation, two Russian introductions of lilac cultivars are getting intermixed.

The names Beauty of Moscow and Pride of Moscow are being used for Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'. This is incorrect since 'Pride of Moscow' is a preferred name for Syringa vulgaris 'Krasnaya Moskva'. If at some convenient time you point the discrepancy to readers of Lilac Newsletter, along with the description of both cultivars, it may help alleviate the problem before it becomes one.

Krasavitsa Moskv'y (Kpacavitsa MockBbl) Beauty of Moscow

(L. Kolesnikov, 1947) Belle De Nancy x I.V. Michurin

Buds large, pinkish-lilac; florets pinkish-white, with pearly tint, large (2.5 cm), double (2-3 tight corollas), very fragrant, similar in shape to those of "polyantha rose". Flower cluster from one to two pairs of large (25 x 12 cm), pyramidal, firm and fine inflorescences. Shrub of medium height, broad, with stiff shoots. Blooms abundantly with prolonged blooming time. The cultivar is of rare beauty. Recommended propagation by cuttings. Approved in 1962 for cultivation in certain zones. Cultivated at Stations No. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 10,11,14,32.

Krasnaya Moskva (Kpachar MockBa) Krasnaja Moskva (Pride of Moscow)

(L. Kolesnikov)

Buds violet-purple, silvery; florets dark purple, with conspicuous yellow stamens, large (2 cm), single, fragrant; petals rounded, slightly raised at the end. Flower clusters thick, firm, often from one pair of wide-pyramidal, ribbed inflorescences measuring 18 x 9 cm. Shrub tall, upright, with dark gray shoots. Blooms moderately at mid-season, distinguished by the stable colour of the flowers. Approved in 1976 for cultivation in certain zones. Cultivated in Stations No. 1,2,3,4,5,7,9,10,12.

Descriptions taken from Lilacs Vol. II No. 2 Special Issue December 1982.

Bernard McLaughlin writes -

I don't understand why so many (people) are having so many problems. I've been growing (lilacs) for 50 years. I have not kept a tabulated annual report. My soil is a sandy loam with compost. I lime and fertilize every two years. I cut off all spent bloom and prune in June. All my lilacs bloom every year.

Here is my list of outstanding performers.

Vestale	S	white	Excellent
DeMiribel	S	violet	
Decaisne	S	blue	One of the best
Firmament	S	blue	
Ami Schott	D	blue	Excellent
Marlyensis	S	rose, here (in Maine)	
Lucie Baltet	S	coral pink	
Katherine Havemeyer	D	pink	
Capitaine Baltet	S	red purple	
Paul Thirion			
Charm	S	violet (in Maine)	Excellent performers
Maiden's Blush	S	pink	" "
Romance	S	pink	" "
Ludwig Spaeth	S	purple	Best in color class
Esther Staley	S	rose	A tall profuse bloomer
Leon Gambetta	D	pink (in Maine)	one of the finest in its color class

There are a few others equally good with a slight variation in color - Mme Antoine Buchner D pink -Excellent. I have never written an article for the bulletin before. You can print as much as you please or not. I'm convinced that cutting off spent blooms and pruning is the reason my lilacs all bloom every year.

Sincerely,

Bernard McLaughlin

Here is Bernie's letter in its entirety. The Newsletter would also publish your letter and comments if you will send them to us.

DEVASTATION IN ENGLISH GARDENS



The ferocious wind storm which hit southern England by surprise on the morning of October 16 damaged thousands of trees in famous English gardens. According to Arthur Bell, the Director of Kew, "only about one-third of Kew is open even now to the public because of potential danger from unsafe trees." Bell estimates that 2,000 trees at Kew have been lost or will have to be cut down because they are so damaged. This represents perhaps eight to ten percent of the trees at Kew. Fortunately, none of the greenhouses at Kew was seriously damaged.

But in perspective, Kew was not the worst hit garden even though it has received the most publicity. At the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, the Society's Director, Chris Brickell, estimates that possibly as many as 40 percent of the large trees have been destroyed. Like Kew, parts of Wisley have still not reopened to the public. Brickell emphasized that the damage was largely to the biggest trees, the lindens, the oaks, the pines, and the tulip trees or, in his words, "the fabric of the garden."

Richard H. Daley, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, recently announced the creation of a special fund at the Society to provide help to these gardens. Contributions can be made by sending a check to the Relief Fund for English Gardens, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, or call Richard Daley at 617-536-9280 to discuss other assistance.

Father Fiala's Book Announced

Timber Press of Portland, Oregon has announced April 1988 as the publication date for Father John Fiala's book "Lilacs."

Lilac lovers will welcome the first modern treatment of this delightful genus of plants dealing with all the species and their discovery and introduction into cultivation, as well as the leading cultivars and their breeding history. Complete cultural, pest and disease, breeding, and propagation information is supplied.

The author has enjoyed a 50-year history as one of America's leading breeders of lilacs.

Approx. 350 pp., 398 color photos, 83 b/w photos, 11 line drawings, 8½ x 11, hardbound \$59.95.

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