



Lilac Newsletter

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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: Orville Steward,
P.O. Box 33,
Plymouth, VT 05056

Secretary: Walter W. Oakes*
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140 W. Douglas Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

Editor: Pro tem. Dr. Owen M. Rogers,
University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH 03824

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

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BABY DROPPED FROM BLAZING HOUSE LANDS SAFELY ON LILAC TREE

HUNTER RIVER, P.E.I. (Prince Edward Island) - A lilac tree helped save the life of a baby who was dropped from a second-storey window during a house fire yesterday.

The tree broke the fall of eight-month-old Christopher Crockett after his father Gordon dropped him to escape the blaze. The boy suffered only from scrapes and bruises.

Gordon Crockett said the couple and their two children just managed to escape from the fire with their lives.

The fire began early in the morning after Mr. Crockett lit the combination oil and wood stove in the kitchen.

He said he snatched John, 19 months, from upstairs, and put him outside in the car. He returned up the stairs to fetch his wife and baby Christopher, but the flames were so intense he could not go down again, he said.

As the fire shot through the house, Mr. Crockett said he held the baby and punched out a bedroom window.

"I roared out and a neighbor came running. I dropped Christopher onto a lilac bush. He got a few scrapes and things. I just followed Christopher out the window."

All four suffered smoke inhalation. The children's mother, Gail, has severe burns to her hands and face.

(From Canadian Press)



GARDENING IS FAVORITE PASTIME

Gardening ranks as America's No. 1 outdoor leisure activity for the third year in a row, according to the 1986-1987 national gardening survey released by the National Gardening Association based in Burlington.

More American households participate in gardening (44 percent), than jogging (28 percent), playing golf (12 percent), fishing (33 percent), tennis (12 percent), bicycling (35 percent) and other outdoor leisure activities.

The 1986-1987 national gardening survey shows that 44 percent of America's households have vegetable and/or flower gardens.

Each year the National Gardening Association commissions the Gallup Organization conduct this survey on gardening activities, motivation and interests.

"The 1986 results indicate that gardening is an important part of America's lifestyle and values," said Charles Scott, president of the nonprofit, member-supported National Gardening Association which publishes National Gardening magazine.

The most popular gardening activities include lawn care, with 51 million households participating, and indoor houseplant growing, with 36 million households participating.

Flowers were grown by 39 million households, up from 1985's 36 million. And vegetables were grown by 34 million households, up from 33 million in 1985.

Retail sales in the gardening industry were up in 1986, totaling \$14.206 billion, an 18-percent increase over the \$12.026 billion spent in 1985.

"Trends in gardeners' ages are changing," noted Scott. "There are more 'baby boomers' - 30- to 49-year-olds - participating today than in past years," said Scott. The buyers of gardening products and information tend to be in this age group.

SYRINGA RETICULATA

Syringa reticulata (Japanese tree lilac) is one of the hardiest of the flowering lilacs. This small, usually multistemmed tree flowers in mid-June. So it is hardly ever effected by a late freeze, like many of the other lilacs are. Japanese tree lilac has a hardiness rating of Zone 4.

I consider Japanese tree lilac to have three outstanding ornamental features: its flowers, its bark and its multistemmed oval habit.

The flowers consist of huge, terminally born, creamy white panicles that are fragrant. They usually last for two weeks.

The flowers provide interest from the time they are in their early green development stages through their full maturity.

The bark characteristics of Japanese tree lilac are very different from those of common lilac. Cherrylike bark with horizontal lenticels and a dark red color makes the species stand out from its early decedents.

Having a nice and stout multistemmed habit, Japanese tree lilac can proudly stand its ground among rivals like serviceberry, Japanese maple and Kousa dogwood.

For maximum flowering, Japanese tree lilac should be planted in full sun and in well-drained soil. A medium loam to silty loam clay soil with a pH ranging from 6.5 to 8.0 is ideal.

Being a lilac, Japanese tree lilac is susceptible to powdery mildew and lilac borer but to a somewhat lesser degree than the common lilac.

In the landscape, Japanese tree lilac makes an excellent specimen plant or an interesting multi-stemmed group planting. The mature size is 20 to 30 feet tall, with a spread of 15 to 20 feet.

Most of the propagation is done by rooted cuttings. Cuttings should be taken in spring, stuck in sand or a mixture of peat and perlite, and misted. Some wholesale nurseries have Japanese tree lilac in bare-root and B&B forms.

Japanese tree lilac was formerly named *S. amurensis japonica*, but now the correct name is *S. reticulata*. There are few named cultivars of Japanese tree lilac: 'Ivory Silk' is the only one I have found readily available.

Patrick Alberti, Horticulturist - DeHoff's Landscape, Alliance, Ohio.

Lilacs Selected by Richard Feniccha
 Highland Park
 Rochester, NY

Editor's Note: Everyone at the Rochester ILS Convention was fascinated by the lilacs shown to us by Dick Feniccha. Many of them will, I am sure, become the "standards" of the future. Because a number of you asked about Dick's work, Bob Hoepfl has supplied the following list which we reproduced here (minus a couple that are no longer around). There are no readily available sources for many of them but perhaps if there was a great groundswell of consumer demand---

LILACS SELECTED BY RICHARD FENICCHIA

1. *Syringa vulgaris* vs. Dwight D. Eisenhower (R164RAF102) Named by R. Fenicchia. Selected on or before 1971. Registered in 1971 by Monroe County Parks Plant Taxonomist Robert B. Clark in Arnoldia, vol. 31, No. 3 page 122. Single, light blue.
2. S. v. cv. Barney Slavin (R18) Selected by R. Fenicchia before 1973 but not yet registered.
3. S. x. cv. John Dunbar (R101RAF164) Selected by R. Fenicchia in 1972. Described by Robert B. Clark in the International Lilac Society Newsletter, edition 6, May 1972. Single violet flowers.
4. S. v. cv. Bicentennial (R333) Selected and named in 1976 by R. Fenicchia. There was a brief note about it in Pipeline, March 1977, but was described and registered in 1988. Single violet flowers. (S. v. cv. Dusk x Rochester)
5. S. V. cv. Bishop McQuaid (R63) It was selected by R. Fenicchia in or before 1972. It was published by Robert B. Clark in Arnoldia 32 (3): 133-135 in 1972. R. Clark stated that it was propagated from a seed of S. v. cv. Rochester from open-pollinated flowers. Single lilac flowers.

6. S. v. cv. Charles Lindbergh (RF2) (S. v. cv. Mme. Charles Souchet x Rochester) Selected and named by R. Fenicchia in 1976. The application was filled out and submitted to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Canada for registry, along with two herbarium specimens, but cannot be registered until a color photograph is submitted. Single, blue.
7. S. v. cv. Frederick Law Olmsted (R538) From a seed from S. v. cv. Rochester, apparently self-pollinated. Selected in 1978 by Richard A. Fenicchia, who suggested the name Channel 10 for the clone, but latter agreed upon the present name. Single, white. It was registered as such in 1988.
8. S. v. cv. Flower City (R92) S. v. cv. Madame Charles Souchet x Rochester. Selected in 1968, named by Robert Hoepfl and R. Fenicchia in 1983. Registered in 1983. Single, violet-blue.
9. S. v. cv. Independence (RF1) Apparently from a self-pollinated flower of S. v. cv. Rochester. Selected and named in 1976 by R. Fenicchia at the Smith Road Nursery. Described in 1987. Registration form, photographs, and herbarium specimens were submitted to the Royal Botanical Garden for registration, but I have been informed that the completed registration form was missing. Single, white.
10. S. v. cv. Sesquicentennial (R418) S. v. cv. Glory x Rochester. Selected in 1972 by R. Fenicchia and named by him in 1984. Registered in 1988. Four shrubs in Highland Park. Single, violet.
11. S. v. cv. Blue Diamond (R164-168) Apparently S. v. cv. Madame Charles Souchet crossed with Rochester. Selected in 1976 by R. Fenicchia and Father John Fiala in the Smith Road Nursery for its unusually beautiful flowers. In 1983, four cuttings were collected. The parent shrub died in 1985. Not registered. I gave it that name to distinguish it from other lilacs. Single, two-tone dark and light blue.

2. S. v. cv. Frederick Douglass Apparently S. v. cv. Madame Charles Souchet crossed with Rochester. Selected by Richard Fenicchia in or before 1972 for its compact habit and single blue flowers. It was described by Robert B. Clark in the International Lilac Society Newsletter edition 6, May 1972.
3. S. julianae cv. George Eastman Selected by R. Fenicchia before 1973. It was a natural seedling of a group of S. julianae planted along the eastern edge of Log Cabin Road. The original shrub (clonotype) was gone before 1973. It differs from the type since its buds are reddish and the flowers are magenta-violet. It was named, and registered by Father John Fiala.



Lyle Littlefield

Lyle Littlefield of Monroe, Maine died suddenly at a Belfast hospital on 9 June 1988. He was born 13 May 1921 at Monroe, Maine and was a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono. He retired from the University of Maine as an Associate Professor of Ornamental Horticulture in 1986. He was a member of many organizations including the International Lilac Society where he served on the Board of Directors and was active in Society affairs until his health curtailed his activities. In his honor, the University of Maine has established an endowment fund, the income from which will be awarded annually to an outstanding horticulture student. Donations to the fund may be made by forwarding checks made payable to the University of Maine to:

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GARDENING REDUCES STRESS

Manhattan, Kan. - Since antiquity, gardeners have recognized that tending plants relieves daily stress. Now scientists have proved it. In the first study of its kind, horticultural therapists at Kansas State University recently tested the stress levels of people while they worked with plants and, again, when they worked with other materials. Twenty mentally handicapped adults sorted paper at a university recycling center and also worked in a greenhouse, where they mixed soil, learned to identify plants and repotted them. Over a period of months, the results were consistent. Pulse rate, blood pressure and skin perspiration levels - classic indicators of stress - were lowest when tending the indoor garden.

Did you know that the landscaping around your home can actually affect your heating and cooling costs? Smart placement of trees and shrubs can keep you cooler in summer and warmer in winter without using extra energy.



This summer, you can cool your home naturally by planting shade trees on the sunny side of the house. Temperatures under trees can be up to 25° cooler in summer. In fact, a single large tree has the cooling power of five room air conditioners (about 60,000 BTU's). Shading your roof and walls can reduce their temperatures by as much as 40°.

Grass and other groundcover plants also reduce temperatures around your home by scattering light and absorbing solar radiation. For this reason, it's probably a good idea to plant a garden with a large area of exposed soil at a distance from your home.

Deciduous vines can also keep your home cooler. In summer, their leaves shade the walls; in winter, their leaves drop, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

For more information about landscaping for energy efficiency, contact the Cooperative Extension Service office in your county.

HOUSE PLANTS GAIN NEW RESPECT AS AIR PURIFIERS*

Excerpted by Allen C. Botacchi
Cooperative Extension Horticulture Agent

According to scientists at the National Space Technologies Lab in Bay St. Louis, Miss., several houseplants appear to have air-purifying qualities. These plants, including spider plant, golden pothos, peace lily and Chinese evergreen, can cleanse the air of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and formaldehyde. In a laboratory test, a spider plant placed in a sealed chamber filled with formaldehyde gas reduced the concentration by 85% within 24 hours. In an average-sized house, as few as 15 plants might significantly cleanse the air.

References - *BPI News XVIII(3):0, 3/87 (Reprinted from Penn. State Hort. Rev. 35(2), 4/86).

L I L A C S

GENUS: SYRINGA

by Rev. Father John L. Fiala

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The Lilac a monograph by Susan Delano McKelvey, 1928

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