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*International Lilac Society, Inc.*



**Newsletter**



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THE 1973 ANNUAL LILAC CONVENTION WILL BE HELD THIS MAY 25-26 AT THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM, BOSTON, MASS.

Convention Chairman: Dr. Owen Rodgers  
University of New Hampshire, Durham, N.H.

(Convention issue material for the NEWSLETTER must reach the Editor by March 10)

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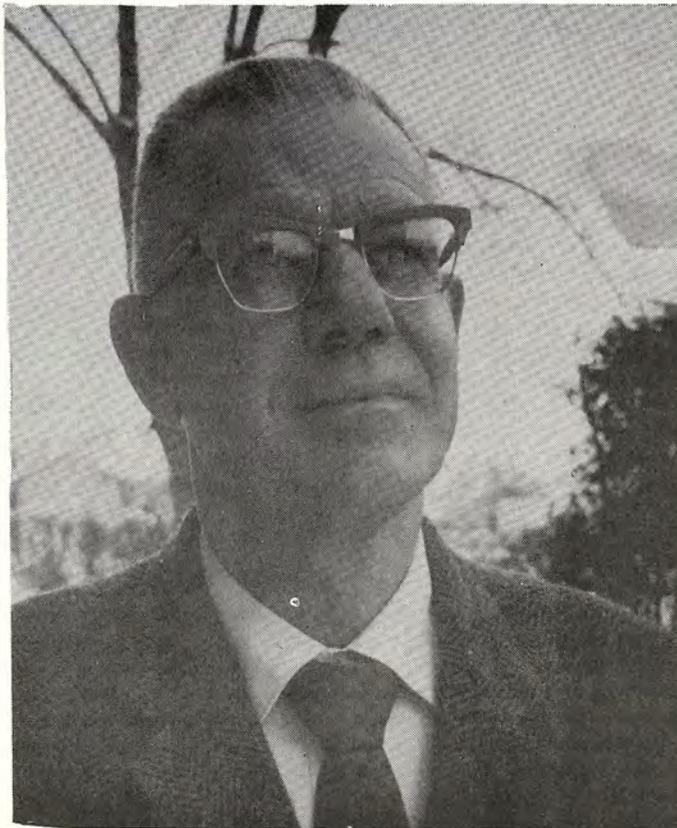
In the interest of the membership of the Society a wide variety of information on lilacs is sought. The Society is anxious to obtain original pictures of hybridists, lilac gardens and items of interest to members. Books, magazine articles, scientific research, are all areas for the Society's archives. Send materials you wish printed or to share to:  
Editor, John L. Fiala or to Mrs. William Utley, Clyde, N.Y.

FRONT COVER: Top left: Early hybrid 'Fenelon'; top right: C.E.Short of Elyria, O., examines buds of 'Rochester'; center: s. pinetorum; lower left: Dr. W.A. Cuming, 'Award of Merit' recipient, at the Castle; lower right: Early hybrid 'Pascal'.

BOARD APPOINTS....

FIRST CONTINUING EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

DR. ROBERT B. CLARK



At the Spring Meeting of the Board of Directors in Rochester, at the request of Board members and by unanimous vote of approval, Dr. Robert B. Clark was appointed the Society's 'first' Executive Vice-President. The office is for a continuing term of five years beginning with October 1972. The Board recognized the need for stabilizing the continuing work of the Society through such an office. Dr. Clark is one of the 'founding' members of the Society, a member of the Board of Directors, was Chairman of the First Annual Convention and has been awarded a special 'Award of Merit' of the Society for his untiring efforts on its behalf.

# ALICE HARDING MEMORIAL LILAC WALK

*by Robert B. Clark*

"Lilacs" says Amy Lowell, "you are everywhere". This is good poetry doubtless, but it hardly satisfies a person who wishes to visit a collection and study or admire lilacs at close range. Parks and arboretums usually grow a few lilacs. One particular lilac collection which is open to the public (if you live in the New York City—northern New Jersey area) is the Rutgers Display Gardens, formerly Horticulture Farm No. 1, located on Ryders Lane at U.S. No. 1 highway in North Brunswick, New Jersey.

There in the Shrub Garden you will find about 100 lilacs growing in a double row on either side of a turf walk. This collection honors the memory of Alice Howard Harding who grew lilacs at nearby Burnley Farm, Plainfield, New Jersey. Mrs. Edward Harding wrote "Lilacs in my Garden", an 85-page hardcover book published by the Macmillan Company in 1933. Two Lemoine lilacs also are named in her honor, 'Mrs. Edward Harding' (1922) a double "red" and 'Souvenir d'Alice Harding' a double white.

In 1932 Mrs. Harding presented 18 lilacs to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station through the offices of Professor Charles H. Connors who was developing the 30-acre tract as a research and teaching farm for ornamental horticulture. The initial donation consisted of the following cultivars: 'Carmen', 'Charles Joly', 'Charles X', 'Condorcet', 'General Pershing', 'Jean Bart', 'Katherine Havemeyer', 'La Tour d'Auvergne', 'Lavaliensis', 'Macrostachya', 'Marceau', 'Mme. Casimir Perier', 'Mme. F. Morel', 'Olivier de Serres', 'Paul Hariot', 'President Loubet', 'Reaumur' and 'Vivian Morel', all but four of which are Lemoine seedlings.

Princeton and other New Jersey nurseries from time to time have contributed lilac cultivars to the collection. The U. S. Department of Agriculture has contributed lilac species. Dr. Connors designed the lilac walk to harmonize the colors. The lilacs are in bloom usually from early to mid-May. The Gardens are under the supervision of Dr. Elwin R. Orton of the Rutgers College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

## SECOND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL LILAC CONVENTION

At the invitation of the Arnold Arboretum the Second Annual Convention of ILS will be held there in Boston, Mass., this May 25-26 in the wonderful setting of the famous Arnold Arboretum Collection. Dr. Owen M. Rogers is Convention Chairman and at a Board Meeting held on October 14 exciting plans were approved to make it a most memorable event with the theme of "Lilacs in Landscaping"—special propagation seminars and other programs of interest to all. Plan now to reserve these dates of May 25-26.



*The Lilac Walk at the  
Arnold Arboretum site  
of the 1973 convention*

# THE FIRST MEMORABLE CONVENTION OF 1972

by *Clare E. Short, Elyria, Ohio, President of Ohio Chapter*

Hurrying to put away a garden tractor after cultivating a garden of vegetables, perennials and a couple hundred varieties of lilacs in anticipation to leave for the First Annual Meeting of the International Lilac Society—I must have slipped—my hand was suddenly alive with pain—a finger was broken—the trip to Rochester would have to be made with a cast on my hand!

On the morning of May 17th Fr. Fiala who was to travel with me brought and planted a six foot specimen of "Macrostachya" in my already burgeoning lilac collection. We were off to Rochester a couple of days before the official opening of the convention. By late afternoon we were registered at the Flagship-Rochester Hotel and by six we were off to Tessa Wynkoop's new home—through sections of Rochester bursting into bloom—lovely landscapes which must have been inspired by men like Dunbar, Laney and Barney Slavin. At dinner of lasagne, eggplant and choice delicacies we talked with knowledgeable Dr. Robert Clark, the talented William and Lois Utleys and witty Ruth Sipp, Treasure of the Rochester Chapter, and oh! the bonsai, herb garden and conservatory plants that flourished in Mrs. Wynkoop's gardens (imagine she even had helixine, that blue-eyed beauty from Sardina and Corsica!)

The following day the sunlight hours were spent ascending and descending the lilac planted hills of Highland Park with Fr. Fiala. We lingered by 'Fenelon' a blooming harbinger of things to come (alas, most lilacs remained in bud)—then past the 'Comtesse Horace de Choiseul' (the "exotic gray lilac" that Alice Harding writes about in her little book on Lilacs — and there in bloom was "Hallelujah (a Havemeyer triumph in large purple bloom — an early one!) High on the hill was "s. pinetorum rare and about which Fr. Fiala was to comment in his talk—and 'Blue Hyacinth' and 'Rochester' (Grant's masterpiece discovered by Dick Fenicchia who master-minded the "Rochester Strain" and told me all about Italian foods and the origin of his surname which means "Phoenician"—he thinks his forebearers traveled with Hannibal to Rome!). At noon we met Alvan Grant, Director of Monroe County Parks, who was to receive a special award later for his 'Rochester'. Returning to the Hotel I dried my soaking shoes and went to bed — we must have walked at least twenty miles. In the evening we attended a dinner hosted by the famous Dr. John Wister and a long table of distinguished guests, some from a great distance — Dr. Cummings from Morden, Manitoba, Canada; Dr. Peter Green from Key Gardens, England, and Dr. Claude Weber from Switzerland — and I got to talk to Dr. Wister, a man I so admired and whose books I have read and reread and consulted many times. I could not monopolize the man (even though I wished so) but I had a great pleasure of being seated next to his wife, Gertrude Wister, herself a distinguished horticulturalist and naturalist — she described the heavenly sight of a Pennsylvanian woods filled with trillium growing by the roadside on their trip from Swarthmore.

The next day I met another most knowledgeable gentleman, Bernard Harkness, who later was to be elected President of I.L.S. for the coming year. At the trip to "The Castle" both Mrs. Wister and Bernard Harkness gave us much information on the plantings there. In our group was the youngest member of the convention, Dennis Souve, a student at the Niagara School of Horticulture. "The Castle" plantings were exciting, the Chinese fir planted in the protection of a nearby juniper and the mysterious paper mul-

berry, "broussonetia", the exquisite Japanese jack-in-the-pulpit ("arisaema ringens") and so many other plants that would go well with lilacs in the background I thought. Earlier in the afternoon, on one of the Lilac Tours, Bernard Harkness pointed out some of the lilac originations of Dr. John Rankin, a very close friend of mine from Ohio, and the specimen of spirea prunifolia placed at the corner of the building across from Highland Park where we were to have our boxed-lunch and meet many new friends, among them Mrs. Stanley Rowe (Rowe Arboretum), from my native Ohio. Rain threatened — the lilacs simply refused to open — Scientific Tour bumped into Landscape Tour into Photographic Tour and we met some delightful people, among them our treasurer, Fred Van Orden from Maine, who gave me pointers on grafting lilacs. Then there was the enthusiastic Dr. Owen Rodgers and the scholarly Dr. Egolf from the National Arboretum — such knowledgeable men and so full of projects and new ideas! Fr. Fiala, Dr. Egolf and Dr. Rodgers were talking about hybridizing — and polyploids and so many new things that could be if only more people would go into lilac research — and I looked at Dennis Souve and the young Jack Alexander and these younger men and felt assured the Society was in good research hands.

. . . And then there was the Banquet — and that interesting national garden club leader, Mrs. Lourene Wishart of Kansas talking about lilacs to Mr. Alexander who puts out those marvelous pages and pages about lilacs, mostly his own creations but all kinds of other fine varieties as well. At the banquet I had the pleasure of meeting Charles Holetich, from the Hamilton Royal Botanical Gardens, and Mr. Baker, a wonderful plantsman from New Jersey, who was willing to talk "shop" with me about lilacs and perennials from delphiniums to fraxinella while we feasted over lamb shiskabobs! What more could one want than that? Then the rather long program began with young tap dancers; the awards were presented (read about them elsewhere) and Bill Utley sang songs about Lilacs including "Come to Kew at Lilac Time" and Sergei Rachmaninoff's haunting "Lilacs"—and the fine accompaniment by his wife, Lois—and unfortunately time ran out and we never heard the main speaker, Mr. John Patek of Color Data Inc. The ubiquitous Fr. Fiala later informed me that after the banquet in the early hours, he and several hardy souls had prevailed upon Mr. Patek and had a most fascinating indoctrination on color in plants with demonstrations as well. While this was going on I did not go to bed but instead met one of the eminent lilac men of America, the redoubtable Mark Eaton, formerly of Lilacland. Mark spins out lilac history like a silken web that captivates one — so many insights into the Havermyer lilacs: I learned that "James Stuart" was named for a neighbor and not the movie star and Mark Eaton didn't think much of the plant (at least not at that hour) and many other observations for all who met in the Utley's suite. I did reach my room and the "Sweet Adoline Girls," whose convention was meeting in the same hotel, serenaded through the corridors all night — and I thought to myself, "My sister, Mary, back home, would never believe this, so I won't tell her!). All this noise and I actually fell asleep, exhausted with the doings of a real Lilac Convention!

Next morning after a hurried bus trip to Durand—Eastman Park, we left for the Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton where another veritable Garden of Eden awaited. There in is another story. Fr. Fiala was anxious to see Ray Halward (who has some of Father's polyploid crabs and newer selection growing in the nursery lath-house). Ray showed us their plantings—we saw the Katie Osborne Lilac Gardens and Dr. Pringle's lilac work in the nursery-research gardens. Then a speeding trip through Toronto over its super through-

way to visit Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Slater at Agincourt. Mr. Slater's father had been a nurseryman and had developed lilacs which had come from the well-known Canadian hybridist, Mrs. Patterson. Coming into bud we saw Mr. Slater's remarkable deep purple 'Agincourt Beauty'. Mrs. Slater served us some of the most delicious tarts and we were off to see the Sheridan Nurseries — another wonderful story there.

Ordinary gardener that I am, when we finally returned home, my own lilac garden was in full bloom and there was 'Zulu', 'Alice Harding', 'Danton' and others that swelled my heart with pride and I was convinced that my own blooms rivaled all I had seen!

## LILAFLAND REVISITED

*by Franklin J. Niedz, Ambler, Penna.*

**A brief summary made by the author to Lilafland on May 14, 1969.  
Many of the observations and varietal comments should be of interest  
to hybridists and those particularly interested in the Havemeyer Lilacs.**

"Lilafland" was obtained by Mark Eaton from Mrs. Havemeyer a few years after her husband's death in 1936. It was not until the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens agreed to establish a memorial to her husband that Mrs. Havemeyer was willing to dispose of 'Lilafland'. Many good plants then growing at 'Lilafland' were given to the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens as was the Havemeyer library.

A detailed and descriptive catalog on lilacs was written by Mark Eaton in 1954 but never distributed in quantity. A few copies were sent out during the period when Eaton's son ran 'Lilafland'. (Mark Eaton has generously donated the remaining lot of catalogs to the Society for distribution to membership which was done in 1972).

The following are some specific comments on particular varieties: OBLATA DILATATA, 'LAMARTINE' and 'CLAUDE BERNARD' are the very earliest to bloom at 'Lilafland'.

'HEATHER' (Single white)—A Havemeyer introduction was observed to be extremely floriferous. Eaton claims it is the most floriferous of all his whites.

'SERENE' (Single—pink lavender) as much like an hyacinth as can be imagined according to Eaton. A long lasting flower changing from pink to blue.

'ETHAN ALLEN'—This has been mentioned by several individuals as being a variety. Eaton has no knowledge of it whatsoever—the name has never been registered. The following is concluded to be the true story of 'Ethan Allen': when Lilafland was being run by Eaton's son some plants were purchased from the daughter-in-law by Fred Van Orden, Farmingdale, Long Island. She was the one who gave the name of 'Ethan Allen' to one of the plants. For whatever reason the name was given it should not be considered as a named variety—nor should the name be continued.

'HALLELUJAH' (Single magenta)—A large petaled variety earlier than others of corresponding color. Parent plant has been moved to the

Bayard Cutting Arboretum in March, 1969.

- 'ROMANCE' (Single pink)—One of the outstanding lilacs at Lilacland with very large flower spikes of slightly squared shape—darker color than 'ESTHER STALEY' and identical to 'MONTESQUIEU'.
- 'PINE MIST' (Single pink)—Named by Dorothy Jenkins, former garden editor of the New York Times. Eaton does not regard it highly as a pink. Basic color is BALLET pink edged with an orchid.
- 'TRUE BLUE'—Named by Havemeyer and observed to be a light violet rather than a blue. (See note under 'ETHEL DUPONT').
- 'ETHEL DUPONT'—Eaton said Havemeyer classified this variety as a dark color, however, the plant marked 'ETHEL DUPONT' at Lilacland is the bluest of all. Eaton thinks that this plant is really Havemeyer's TRUE BLUE.
- 'TIT TAT TOE'—A Havemeyer seedling named by Eaton. It is a blend of light purples.
- 'MISTER BIG'—Named by Eaton, is a strong magenta.

'L'ONCLE TOM' and 'NEGRO' are the parents of MRS. W. E. MARSHALL' and Eaton believes that 'SARAH SANDS' (named after Mrs. Havemeyer's sister) is from the same cross but he also notes that Havemeyer used 'MME. MOREL' as a seed parent in his breeding. 'MACROSTACHYA' appeared to be the most abundant variety planted at Lilacland. It was found throughout the entire nursery—in color a very pale pink. 'WHITE SWAN' and 'MT. BLANC' appeared to be identical in the nursery.

Mark Eaton's favorites are: Best blue—the plant marked 'ETHEL DUPONT' at Lilacland; Best pink—'LUCIE BALLET', Darkest purple—'SARAH SANDS', Best of all colors—'ANN SHIACH'.

## OHIO CHAPTER HOLDS FALL MEETING

The Ohio Chapter organized last Spring held its Fall Meeting at Gardenview Horticultural Park, Strongsville, Ohio, on October 29. Officers of the local chapter are: President Clare Short of Elyria, Vice-President Henry Ross of Strongsville, Treasurer Paul Young of North Olmsted, Lois Kozak of Litchfield is Corresponding Secretary and Marie Chaykowski of Mantua is Recording Secretary. Members were appraised of the work of the International Board Meeting in Boston by Board Member Fr. John Fiala and accounts and notes on the May Convention at Rochester were exchanged by those who attended. Plans to attend the Boston Convention were initiated. A tour of Gardenview's newly planted lilac garden was given by Director Henry Ross who explained the format of the rather extensive plantings. A lilac plant exchange ended the informative meeting. Efforts to increase membership and to become active in the promotion of the lilac are first priorities.

*REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS are urged to form Local Chapters of the International Lilac Society to foster interest and to promote the Lilac. If you are not within an area covered by a local chapter and have sufficient members to form a local chapter contact the Society's Executive Vice-President, Robert B. Clark at P.O. Box 92, Bellona, N.Y. 14415*



## PRACTICE, PLANTING AND CARE OF LILAC SEEDLINGS

*by Ken Berdeen, Kennebunk, Maine*

(Ken is a hybridist of Lilacs for the past 25 years. His experience, insights are shared in this article)

"Am enclosing this article on Lilacs for the NEWSLETTER in the event that anything I have learned about Lilacs might be of value to share with the membership of the Society.

As a hobbyist I started my lilac collection in 1947. One of my first seedlings 'CHRIS', named for an old friend, was a cross between 'CHARLES X'x'ADELAIDE DUNBAR'. 'CHRIS' is a very large single, deep purple. At present I have about 800 seedling plants from 4 to 12 years old. Formerly I had about 1200 but have culled them as fast as possible. I prefer to have them bloom four or five years before disposing of them or keeping them. Experience has shown that plants which were anything but pleasing their first year of bloom have, after four or five years of bloom, become beautiful. Some are slow to show their real worth. I have selected about 30 plants as "very good" this with the help of other growers and fanciers and perhaps will have another five or six more to add to this number—some undoubtedly will end up as culls.

For my part I have been very reluctant in introducing new plants as I have bought many introductions (which were highly proclaimed) only to be very disappointed with them and finding them no improvement over what is already on the market. I sincerely hope the Society will take a very good look at any new plant introductions so that only those that are really better in color or habit or some special quality might be named. We already have too many that are the same or even inferior.

My partiality is to "French Hybrids"; my crosses are all of *Syringa vulgaris* varieties. It is my belief that a great deal remains to be done by watching plant habits and bloom—by crossing a late blooming plant with another of similar habit and desirable color, often an even later blooming plant can be the result. One of my French Hybrid crosses blooms ten days later than any of my other *Syringa vulgaris* plants and fortunately it is a beautiful pink. I also had fourteen culls from this same cross; the score was one out of fifteen, but, oh, so worth it! When I get a plant I think is exceptional I immediately try to propagate it, so it will not be lost.

It is my belief that Northern New England is very conducive to lilacs, but geographic locations, though only a few miles apart, as well as soil conditions and textures can make a lot of difference in color and growth.

Seed is gathered as soon as dry and frozen for thirty days (this I think in-

creases the percentage of germination I am quite sure, at least for me—others, however, will differ in opinions regarding this practice.) I plant seed in flats three feet off the ground so that the warm air can circulate around the flat (I believe this speeds the sprouting time); at three months old I set the plants in a 'shade house' with raised beds for two years and then set them in the gardens until they bloom and are culled. While these plants are in the garden they are fertilized with old, barn dressing from nearby farms which can be bought delivered and with sea weed that is plentiful here. They are limed every other year and are sprayed once with Bordeaux Mixture when they are just budding out.

## LILAC SEED EXCHANGE

Dr. Robert B. Clark, of the Rochester Parks, Rochester, N. Y. (our Executive Vice-President), has done a monumental work and service in his annual list of seeds available. Very frequently one does not realize the tremendous work of collecting, cleaning, labeling and mailing that is involved in such work. Dr. Clark's service is one most deserving of recognition and a sincere "Thanks!" If you have not availed yourself of some of the choice offerings you are missing a real lilac experience. Some seed is very limited so do not be disappointed if all requests cannot be filled. It is through efforts such as his that some of the less known species are available through seed. Perhaps his efforts will prompt some to grow and hybridize some of these species and clones. A tremendous service from a tremendous person!

## PUBLICATION OF LILAC SURVEY

The publication of the Society's first major work is now well along after a year and a half of research and preparation. AN INTERNATIONAL LILAC SURVEY 1973 will be a survey of all known lilacs (considerable amount of material has been submitted by Russian and Polish members to make this publication truly "international and as complete as presently possible"). Several articles on various aspects of culture, landscaping and areas of interest will be included. Your Editor asks anyone who has a last minute concern to notify him immediately as correction can still be made to the end of January. Several originators and introducers will receive forms for more adequate information on the lilacs they have introduced. One of the areas of greatest concern is the lack of information many introducers give (included should be the name, color class, single/double, date of introduction, originator, and parentage if at all possible, species name). Some introducers register a name only and there is doubt as to the actual existence of a plant. (Your Editor, after working for months on thousands of cards, is convinced that a "priority" is the need for strict rules for registration of Lilacs by the Society. Recommendations will be presented at the May meeting.)

## PUBLICATION HAS NEW FORMAT

Beginning with this issue of the NEWSLETTER the new format will be uniform for all future publications. An "Index" will be printed for all materials every two years. A special publication entitled "PROCEEDINGS" will contain all scientific material, and speeches presented at the Annual Convention with pertinent Society material. The first "PROCEEDINGS" should reach members (only) by mid-January. Next NEWSLETTER in February and (Convention Issue) in April, then a Summer Issue, Winter Issue.

## AGRISEARCH NOTES

*The following article is reprinted from 'Agricultural Research' USDA from March 1972. Perhaps this same treatment of blooms might work equally as well with lilacs.*

Gladiolus placed in a floral preservative after shipping develop more open florets and live almost twice as long as gladiolus held in water.

Present marketing practice dictates harvesting spikes with unopened buds, grading the spikes, then wrapping them in kraft paper and transporting them at 40° F.

Seeking improvement on this method, ARS horticulturist Francis J. Marouisky, Bradenton, Fla., packed White Friendship gladiolus in vented and nonvented containers that were subjected to simulated shipping conditions for 3 days at 40° and 50° F. Kraft paper or polyethylene plastic sheeting covered the spikes during shipment. Afterwards, spikes were held at either 74° F. in water or in 400 parts per million of the preservative 8-hydroxy-

quinoline citrate plus 3-percent sucrose (8-HQC+S).

Spikes held in 8-HQC+S continued to produce open florets and remain turgid for 8.5 to 10 days. Spikes held in water wilt after 4.5 to 6 days. Polyethylene wrappers prevented moisture loss, while kraft paper permitted 9- to 10-percent loss, but this loss did not affect floret opening. Floret quality was not affected by type of carton—vented or nonvented.

Floret quality of spikes held in 8-HQC+S remained the same whether shipped or not and was superior to those spikes not shipped and held in water.

Test results indicate that gladiolus spikes harvested in the bud stage and handled and shipped at low temperatures—40° to 50° F.—potentially can produce as many open florets as freshly harvested spikes. Additional enhancement of floret opening can be achieved after shipping if spikes are held in 8-HQC+S.

The preservative, 8-hydroxyquinoline citrate plus sucrose, is available commercially.



### NEW LILAC INTRODUCED

Leonard Slater of Agincourt, Ontario, stands beside his newest introduction, 'Agincourt Beauty', a very large, deep purple single. Buds are as large as 'Glory' but more floriferous according to Slater. Plant has strong growth in attractive branching form. Introduction is through Sheridan Nurseries Ltd..



*S. persica* var. *laciniata*

"La couleur des fleurs est le rose carmin de différents tons,  
quelquefois le blanc.." Decaisne

".haben aber eine schöne fleisch-oder rosenrothe Farbe." Koch

"...pinkish rather than bluish in color.." McKelvey

"...a mauve- a pink trying to be purple.." Whistler