



The Pipeline



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

In this Advent season I look in wonder at what we may expect. Forgive me when I compare particulars with universals--if we fail to see universals in daily events, I fear we are lost. Steadfastly, I do believe, we members of ILS must keep looking ahead to the day of lilac perfection and widespread acceptance. By this I mean that our little society anticipates the improvement of cultivated lilacs and a marvelous increase in number of lilac lovers.

Lilacs have been grown in Western gardens for more than 4 centuries and, largely through the happy work of the Lemoines, have been expanded in form and color, especially in the past 100 years. With the new Rochester strain and others, we are today upon a thrilling threshold of further improvements of lilac form and color. Dare we imagine what is in store for us lilac devotees--amateurs and growers alike?

Our watchword, therefore, at this festive season is rejoice in the expectation of having better lilacs for our gardens, in the opportunities to tell other gardeners about lilacs and our fellowship in ILS. I look forward to seeing each one of you at the Morton Arboretum in May, the 16th and 17th, our first meeting in the Midwest.

(Signed) Robert B. Clark

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ILS REGIONAL MEETING

The Eastern Canada region members met at the Arboretum Center of the University of Guelph, Ontario on Oct. 26, 1974. Among other things there was discussion, then a resolution to pay the mailing costs of "The Pipeline" from the Eastern Canada region account for a period of 12 months. The printing of the publication is being done through the courtesy of the Royal Botanical Gardens.

(Editor's note: And the work of handling it is being done by Charles Holetich, to whom your ed. will ever be grateful.)

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TRANSFER OF LILAC REGISTRATION--a news release from Freek Vrugtman

At the XIXth International Horticultural Congress in Warsaw, Poland, this past September, the Council of the International Society for Horticultural Science confirmed the transfer of responsibility for the International Registration of Cultivar Names within the genus Syringa to the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

Its collection in the Katie Osborne lilac garden ranks among the finest on this continent and interspecific hybridization experiments carried out at the Gardens have contributed significantly to the scientific knowledge of this genus.

The transfer of the registration responsibilities from the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa. to the Royal Botanical Gardens will take effect, officially, on Jan. 1, 1975. The Curator of Collections, Mr. Freek Vrugtman, has been appointed registrar. Consideration is now being given to establishing an advisory committee on which the ILS will be represented.

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MORE ON FALL FERTILIZATION--from Owen M. Rogers

I've been fertilizing my lilacs in the fall for years because it works and because that's when I have time to do it. The reason that fall fertilization for lilacs is not widely practiced is because people thought that new growth would be stimulated so late in the year that the shoots would be winter-killed.

However, remember that an occasional shoot, or even a bloom, late in the year is normal on any large lilac bush. Every time such a shoot appears, we get inquiries as to whether it was caused by late fertilization. We tell the inquirer that the shoot would have appeared, fertilizer or not, but I have a feeling that many people take the shoot appearance as proof that fall fertilization is bad.

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