



The Pipeline

This issue edited by Mrs. Isabel Zucker, 708 West Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 48013

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FORCING LILACS--Some 40 years ago forced lilacs were a fairly common sight in the wholesale markets in large cities in the United States. They still are in Europe but no longer in the U.S. though they sometimes are seen. Forced lilacs are usually pale in flower color, white or almost white because the light in the forcing houses is insufficient for good color, but their delightful scent is there, though that too is not as strong as it would be outdoors.

There are tricks to forcing lilacs, even in the greenhouse, and these are usually considered family secrets, to be passed from one generation to another but not to be made public.

Should you wish to try to force lilacs ahead of their normal flowering season, there is an underlying fact that you should know. After normal bloom time, when the flower buds for the following year are being formed (and you know that they are completely formed by autumn) a growth-inhibiting chemical compound accumulates in the buds. This chemical is called dormin, a word allied to dormant which, as you know means resting. Dormin is destroyed gradually by the winter's cold and, when it is all gone, spring warmth and rains bring bud swelling and subsequent bloom.

However, if the dormin is not injured in winter (let's imagine that you brought a lilac plant into a greenhouse in September so that it never was in cold weather) that plant will not bloom even at normal flowering time because buds still are held dormant with dormin.

This explanation tells you why you've had such poor luck, as most gardeners have had, in forcing lilacs when you have easily forced forsythias which, obviously, must have less dormin in their buds since, even outdoors, they open earlier.

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Editor: Mrs. Isabel Zucker, 708 West Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 48013

mailed January 21, 1976

The Canadian postal strike did a good job of upsetting the mailing and the numbering of THE PIPELINE. So, since this issue makes up for lost time, please consider it an interim issue which is unnumbered and undated.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BOARD MEETING--Naturally this is of prime interest to members of ILS. Well, William A. Utley who is chairman of the coming annual meeting in Rochester, NY on May 21, 22 and 23, 1976 announced his plans for both the talks and the field trips. If everything works out as planned the days of the meeting should be both enjoyable and instructive. So--start saving your pennies!

The President told of traveling 2000 miles in 4 days, driving so that the cost was only \$80, in search of cions for the Society's propagation project. Among places visited were the Smith Road Nursery, Rochester, NY, the Arnold Arboretum, the George Landis Arboretum and the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. The Arnold is outside of Boston at Jamaica Plain, the Landis is at Esperance NY and the Frelinghuysen is in Morristown NJ!!! He took 500 cions to the nurseryman in Dansville NY who is to bud them.

In addition, during the year, he visited Dr. Wister, Swarthmore, Pa., Fr. Fiala, Medina OH and the Utley's at Grape Hill Farm, Clyde NY.

The 1977 annual meeting will be in Amherst, Mass.

Dr. Donald Egolf is the new chairman of the Propagation and Distribution committee.

James Pringle's PhD thesis is to be printed by the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ont. and disseminated to ILS members as a technical bulletin of ILS with costs shared by the Society and the Gardens.

Dr. Rogers' sabbatical project is described by him elsewhere in this issue.

Most important to readers of this sheet, the Society will now bear the cost of publication, which really is very little, and there will be 2 editors, your present ed and the president, each of whom is to edit 6 issues.

FINANCES--Treasurer Marie Chaykowski reported that \$4719.57 was transferred to her when she took office, that \$630.91 came to the Society as proceeds from the last annual meeting at the Morton Arboretum

and that \$140 had come in from dues making a total of \$5490.48. Expenditures to Oct. 18 totalled \$1042.13. Cash on hand was \$4448.35 of which \$300 is in a separate life membership account, of which only the interest is used for current operations of the Society, and \$1333.35 is in a trust account for education and research.

As you can see from the above, the Society is in good financial shape, but with a yearly income of about \$1000 from dues, costs must be carefully watched.

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NEW FROM RUSSIA--The Russian government sent 40 lilacs of 10 varieties to the Lumley's at Lilac Land, 24 Harkness Rd., Amherst, Mass. They arrived Aug. 22, 1975. Names (in case you are looking for plants) are Amethyst, Cosmos, Hortensia, India, Ivan Michurin, Krasavitza Moskvya, Kremlevskye Kuranty, Leonid Leonov, Metschta and Olimpiada Kolesnikova.

NEW FROM THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM--From this institution the Lumley's received 84 cuttings including 11 new varieties: Alexander Hamilton, Crepuscule, Dusk, Gen. Pershing, Missimo, Princess Clementine, Prof. Stoekhardt, Reine Elisabeth, Sensation, Thomas Jefferson and Zulu.

The Lumley's also have a new list of 171 varieties from their about 1600 plants. If you wish a copy, the address is above and a 13cent stamp or the equivalent in 1-10 cent plus 1-3 cent stamp should get you a copy.

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AN OPINION FROM WALTER OAKES--After 3 years of bloom we would have to say that the late-blooming variety Agnes Smith from the University of New Hampshire, is vastly superior to the only other white-flowered variety in this class--Anna Amhof. Foliage is of a very heavy texture, panicles are quite conical and very erect with florets large for this classification. Plant growth is very good with blooms appearing when the plant was only 30" tall. The flowers of neither cultivar are true white because the buds are a very pale pink which soon fades to white. It is hoped that the plants do not achieve the large size that some of the other late lilacs achieve.

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Dr. Owen Rogers reports that, for the Bicentennial, the state of New Hampshire is getting out a bottle in the shape of a lilac bloom cluster which is to be filled with, guess what?--whiskey!!! These are for sale and if you wish to contact him, he'll take your order and fill it IF he can--these bottles are on a first come, first served basis. Dr. Rogers wrote all details but this sheet has turned up missing, for which your ed begs his and your pardon.

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Tentative Checklist to be Published--Owen Rogers

The International Lilac Society has accepted responsibility for registration of new lilac cultivars. The Royal Botanical Gardens at Hamilton, Ontario has been designated as the registration site with Mr. Freek Vrugtman responsible for administration of the program.

The first step toward supporting the registration of new lilac names is the publication of a tentative list of all the names that have been used for lilacs in the past. This would be followed with a permanent checklist that would be complete with all information, including descriptions, of lilac varieties. The purpose of the tentative list is to prepare a list as quickly as possible for circulation so that additions, deletions and corrections can be made to insure the correctness and completeness of the final checklist.

Therefore, sometime at the end of this year or early next year, the ILS will publish, in association with the University of New Hampshire Agriculture Experiment Station, a tentative checklist which will be distributed to all members. The tentative list will only contain the name (with its supporting information on originator, year of introduction, etc.) any synonyms and a literature citation where the name can be found in print.

The reasons for distribution include the obvious ones of information when naming new lilacs, but also a real plea for help. There are two categories where people associated with lilacs can really assist this project. One is to submit additional names not on the list and the other is to supply additional literature or catalog references of lilacs in the list. This second reason is most important. Clearly if a lilac is to be identified or publicized, it has to be described not just because the International Code requires it but for the very practical purposes of distributing and selling it. A lilac description in your head has a limited distribution but a good description in print is a permanent record.

So, the purpose of this report is to alert you that the list is coming and that your help will be needed to turn a tentative, incomplete list into a permanent, useful list.