



The Pipeline

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HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE TO PLANT "OWN ROOT" LILACS, by Lourene Wishart.

1. If your ground will grow a good garden, it will also grow a good Lilac. If your soil is poor, you could place some well rotted cow manure, and one cup Horticultural Bone Meal, in the bottom of the hole before you make your planting. This, should be tamped down tightly with some good garden soil on top, before the root is placed in the hole. I DO NOT USE COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER.
2. When your package arrives, stand it in water overnight without unwrapping the bundle.
3. Before you open your package, dig the holes large enough to take the Lilac roots without crowding. Fill each hole with a pail of water and allow to seep away.
4. Do not spread out your plants and let them lie on the ground while you are planting.
5. Take one Lilac from your package at a time and work the soil carefully about the roots until the hole is half full. Then tamp the soil about the roots unusually hard. Pour in a pail of water and go on to the next plant and treat it in the same manner.
6. When you have completed your planting, come back to the first one and fill the hole with soil and tamp it down also. Then place some loose mellow soil over the top of the ground.
7. Keep your plants well cultivated the first year so they will become well established.
8. If the planting is made in the fall, place a coarse mulch about the plants for first winter to keep the ground from heaving.
9. If you use a commercial fertilizer, dig a trench about your plant early in the spring about a foot away from the main stem. Cover this with soil and the rain will wash this fertilizer equally about the roots.
10. Be sure to keep your plants well watered during dry weather. Watch them from the time you make your planting until they have become thoroughly established.
11. A satisfactory mulch is ground-up tree stumps. The City of Lincoln has a stockpile of them at Sherman Field, Third and South Streets. This is free for the hauling. (Lincoln area only.)
12. If oyster shell scale attacks, spray with Ortho Volck Oil when dormant, in March before green buds are showing. If not discovered until mid-summer, spray with Malathion according to directions several times.

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LIBERTY TREE LILAC AT DELHI, NEW YORK.

Nancy Emerson reports that the Delaware County Horticultural Society sponsored the planting of a Japanese tree-lilac at the town office building on Arbor Day. More than thirty lilacs were sold at the plant sale that day. This is a continuing project to make Delhi a "Lilac arboretum" with a different lilac in each yard.

THE DAILY STAR, Tuesday, May 25, 1976



Star photo by Peter Zicari

Bringing Lilacs to Delhi

Members of the Delhi horticulture society look on as preparations are made to plant a "Liberty Tree" lilac in front of the Delhi town office building. From left are Steve Kupferman, president of the Delhi Tech Horticulture Society,

Tom Davidson, vice president; Caroline Stoddart, town clerk Margaret Stoddart, Mrs. Earl Parshall and Nancy Emerson, director of the International Lilac Society. The Delaware County Horticulture Society said it is striving to make Delhi a lilac town.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, IS OFFICIAL LILAC CITY, but-days seem numbered, Jim Moore, a Nebraska nurseryman writes in the Omaha World-Herald. (Reprint by permission).

"Did you know that Lincoln is officially known as "Lilac City"?

In April of 1946, the City Council passed a resolution thus designating the city. In fact, Mayor Victor Anderson went even further. He proclaimed "Lilac Sunday," during which citizens were urged to drive about the city enjoying the thousands of blooms that were to be seen everywhere at that time.

In addition to this, Lilac City also had its own special Lilac Lane. This started on Van Dorn near the Regional Center and proceeded all the way to the entrance to Pioneers Park - a distance of many blocks.

In those days, the arrival of lilac bloom turned this city into a mass of purple flowers that delighted the eye and titillated the nose. The fragrance of lilac bloom is a perfume that, once whiffed, will never be forgotten.

OYSTER SHELL SCALE

If all this happened yesteryear, why is so little written about lilacs today? The answer's simple, in three words: *oyster shell scale*.

Oyster shell scale could easily be called "the smallpox of plants." Its victim is more often lilac or some kind of euonymus.

Some years ago, it was called *California* oyster shell scale, but public relations people in that state did an excellent hatchet job. And, in no time at all the scale was standing on its own. Nobody wants to claim it - and for good reason.

If you'd like to see what it looks like and what it can do, take a drive from the Regional Center to Pioneers Park about May 1. Oyster shell scale is easy to identify. If you've even seen an oyster's shell, you can't miss it - grey and dirty white with flecks.

THREE CONTROLS

Actually, there are three ways to control this disease.

First, each lilac shrub should be inspected every three or four months and those canes with any indication of scale should be cut to the ground and burned.

A dormant Volck oil spray applied in March before green buds appear is helpful. And applications of Malathion in summer are also recommended.

Obviously, the planting of lilacs is not for the faint of heart. But what about others - the real Nebraska-types - those who are used to fighting wind, weather, disease and disaster?

If we Nebraskans confine ourselves to only those trees and shrubs that don't have enemies, we'll soon be looking at the same Great American Desert our ancestors saw when they first came here. There simply are not many plants left in this state that don't have some major enemy.

NOT IN HEDGES

Lilacs should not be planted in masses - in hedges. This is, indeed, inviting disaster. But a plant here and there certainly is worth the effort.

Remember that Canada and some portions of the northern United States are free of scale and it's conceivable that some winter the right combination of moisture and temperature could fumigate oyster shell scale right out of this state and send it back to California where, ahem, it belongs."

LILAC RESEARCH RECEIVES \$500 GRANT. A Research project on the susceptibility and resistance of lilac cultivars and species to infection by the powdery mildew fungus was recently awarded a \$500 Richard P. White Research Grant by the Horticultural Research Institute.

The study, being conducted by Dr. Craig R. Hibben at the Kitchawan Research Laboratory in Ossining, N.Y., hopes to evaluate mildew resistance in lilac collections at six Northeastern arboretums.

According to Dr. Hibben, he has completed one and, in some cases, two year evaluations for some arboretums; however, data for at least one more year is necessary to achieve statistically sound conclusions.

Dr. Hibben reports that the \$500 will be used to pay travel expenses to arboretums located in or near N.Y. City, Boston, Mass., Philadelphia, Pa., Rochester, N.Y., and Washington, D.C. for the purpose of collecting additional data.

The Horticultural Research Institute Grants, now in their fourth year, are to be used to help purchase supplies and equipment for important nursery research projects. Awarding of these annual grants is made on the basis of a prepared application form available from HRI, 230 Southern Building, Washington, D.C. 20005.

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HORTUS THIRD AVAILABLE BY CHRISTMAS. At long last Hortus III, a 1360 page compendium of horticulture and successor to Hortus II, will become available to gardeners for the Christmas season. The price is \$85, after New Year's \$100. Orders may be placed through the publisher, Macmillan & Co., New York and London, or at your local bookstore. The section on Lilacs (Syringa) was prepared by Dr. Owen M. Rogers of the University of New Hampshire.

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ERRATUM. The correct citation of "Canada Gem" (The Pipeline, September 1976 issue, page 2) reads:

-A grand new lilac that is hardy as an oak and rivals the best French Hybrids for grace and beauty. It comes into bloom after our native varieties are through and remains in flower a long time. The flowerheads are of immense size, almost like the hydrangeas. We consider this one of the finest shrubs you can have on your lawn. Will not spread like common lilacs."

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