The Pipeline

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SIXTH CONVENTION AT AMHERST. The Lord Jeffrey Inn will be convention headquarters for our sixth annual membership meeting, May 20-22, 1977. Society members planning to attend are advised to make reservations right away, since a limited number of accommodations are available. The innkeeper assures the Board of Directors that all ILS members who register will indeed be taken care of at nearby motels.

Your Convention Committee overlooked the possibility that Smith College of nearby Northampton might have been holding its commencement during the lilac blooming season. They are, and this explains why accommodations must be sought early ! Address your requests for room reservations to the Lord Jeffrey Inn, Amherst, MA 01002, NOW if you plan to attend next year's ILS convention.

Al and Mabel Lumley have been grooming Lilac Land, their home surrounded by hundreds of specimen lilacs at 24 Harkness Road, a couple of miles east of Amherst on the lower slopes of Pelham Hill. Members can read of this project in the May 1976 number of Yankee magazine, pages 42-52. (This article by Nancy Frazier drew literally thousands of visitors to Lilac Land last spring, thus demonstrating that lilacs are a drawing card; and it behooves us to increase our efforts to bring in more members.)

Springtime in the Connecticut Valley is a glorious season. You will not want to miss the dogwoods and lilacs while the tobacco fields are being planted. Al Lumley has scheduled bus tours to Smith College botanical garden, to charming Old Deerfield village, to the University of Massachusetts horticultural greenhouses, and, of course, to Lilac Land where delegates may enjoy the best of lilacs in a park-like setting and from under a festive tent canopy. Distinguished lilac growers and investigators will speak on various topics about lilac culture, and a series of meals will feature the three-day outing. The complete program will be published in a forthcoming issue of The Pipeline, but don't wait. Act NOW if you wish to be included in next spring's lilac festivities.

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AUTUMN COLOUR IN LILACS. The people at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Canada, took a look at their lilac collection during the week of October 11 and found that the following plants showed enough colour to take notice :

Syringa x hyacinthiflora 'Hyacinthiflora Plena' - a very dark purplish-brown, very uniform colouration, the best of the four.

S. patula - dark purplish-brown.

S. vulgaris 'K.A. Timeryazen' - many leaves partially purplish-brown, some leaves with just a touch of purplish-brown, and some leaves remaining green.

S. x diversifolia 'Nouveau' - many leaves partially purplish-brown, but probably the least showy of these four.

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PROPAGATION BY CUTTINGS OF SYRINGA CHINENSIS AND SYRINGA MICROPHYLLA

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The relatively narrow period of time in which stem cuttings of some Syringa species will root appears to be related to flowering and subsequent bud set. The study described below was an attempt to define the problem period in Syringa chinensis and Syringa microphylla as well as affect a change in the rooting percentages. Earlier studies conducted in late July indicated that rooting percentages were quite poor with Syringa chinensis at this time of year.

Materials & Methods

Cuttings were taken from S. chinensis and S. microphylla in the last week of June and at weekly intervals through and including the last week in July. Forty-eight 8-inch cuttings were taken at each sampling date. Prior to insertion into a washed river sand rooting medium the foliage was stripped from the lower two inches of the stem. One half of the cuttings in each sample were used as a check with no further treatment. The second half were treated with 0.8% indolebutyric acid in talc. Treatment was made as a basal dip of the lower inch of the stem in the IBA talc prior to placing the cuttings in the rooting medium.

Intermittent mist was used for the duration of the study. Mist was supplied from deflection type nozzles placed above the cuttings. The mist operated for six seconds in each minute between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. each day independent of weather conditions outside the greenhouse. Each treatment was replicated four times in the propagation bench.

Results

The cuttings from each sampling date were removed from the rooting medium after each had remained in the medium for two months. Rooting percentages are shown in Table 1. Any cutting was considered rooted if one or more roots were visible at the base of the stem.

Table 1. Effect of collection data and IBA treatment on rooting of S. chinensis and S. microphylla cuttings.

Date	Treatment	Percent Rooting	
		S. chinensis	S. microphylla
6/23	check	12.5	75.0
	IBA	12.5	96.0
6/30	check	29.2	4.1
	IBA	41.5	41.5
7/7	check	29.2	4.1
	IBA	45.8	16.6
7/14	check	4.1	29.2
	IBA	8.3	79.2
7/21	check	4.1	33.3
	IBA	8.3	83.5

Bud set in S. chinensis started between 7/10 and 7/14 while in S. microphylla bud set occurred between 7/1 and 7/7. In both species there was a marked drop in rooting percentage at or near bud set with the untreated check cuttings. With S. chinensis the depression in rooting continued past the period of bud set while in S. microphylla rooting percentages began to increase in the check cuttings seven to ten days past the bud set.

The IBA treatment had little or no affect on improved rooting in S. chinensis after the period of bud set while on S. microphylla the IBA treatment appeared to greatly enhance the rooting percentages both before and after the period of bud set. The IBA had its least effect at the time of bud set in both species.

It would appear that the IBA treatment of softwood cuttings is helpful in overcoming the natural rooting inhibition associated with flowering and bud set in some Syringa species.

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