



The Pipeline

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TREE-LILAC FOR BICENTENNIAL "LIBERTY TREE".

When I started out fresh from college in the latter days of The Depression I found a job in the landscape department of Bay State Nurseries of North Abington, Massachusetts. Donald D. Wyman was the boss and he was fond, very fond, of the Japanese tree-lilac. Persistently and insistently he would recommend to me the designer to include it on all my lists and plans. I have since come to admire this lilac almost as much as he.

Aside from its virtues of hardiness, adaptability and easy culture the Japanese tree-lilac produces handsome foliage surmounted by large clusters of creamy white lilacs in June while in winter the smooth olive-coloured branchlets are suggestive of the cherry tree. The tree-lilac is a small tree of broad oval form, up to twenty feet or so in height, with upsweeping branches. It is suitable for planting as a free standing specimen or for placement toward the rear of a border.

The glistening white flower clusters appear in summer crowning the fresh olive-greenish foliage. Its heart-shaped leaves are rather coarse in texture. By many people the fragrance is considered heavy, more suggestive of privet than the familiar lilac. The decorative value of this lilac extends throughout all seasons. The yellow-green fruit pods sometimes show a pinkish blush in autumn sunshine.

A half-mile avenue of Japanese tree-lilacs line either bank of Cascadilla Creek as it flows through Ithaca, New York. These trees are mature having been planted many years ago. Although they have suffered the average care of municipal plantings, nevertheless each year they make a respectable showing during commencement season.

I have recently learned of other sources than J. Herbert Alexander of Middleboro, Massachusetts. These are Grape Hill Farm, Clyde, New York, and Mellinger whose address I do not have at hand. This lilac may be listed as *Syringa japonica*, or as a variety of *S. amurensis*, but its scientific name now is *S. reticulata*.

R.H.S. HONORS I.L.S.

Your President has recently received one of 200 complimentary fellowships bestowed by The Royal Horticultural Society of London "to mark the occasion of the 200th anniversary in 1976 of the American Declaration of Independence". One aspect of the fellowship is "to strengthen the already close horticultural links between the two countries and to bring to gardeners and garden lovers in the United States a keener awareness of the wide-ranging activities of the Society in the interest of horticulture". Your President is pleased to accept the honor in the name of the International Lilac Society.

WHO IS HONORED ?

To their double-flowered seedlings Victor and Emile Lemoine often assigned names of prominent nineteenth century Frenchmen, including great ladies. Marechal Foch, the hero of Verdun, is remembered by the superb single bright pink lilac, a worthy choice for each perhaps. Likewise in America President Lincoln is equally remembered by the bluest of Dunbar's seedlings, the standard blue for more than a half century, although this lilac hides its flowers amid the early developing leaves. The question is who is actually honored, the deceased or the lilac ? Who exactly was Leon Gambetta to rate immortality by that sweetly scented blue double of Lemoine's ?

Would it not be far better to associate a lilac with one of its own attributes, or in some other way ? More descriptive and more happily I think are the following names, although no recommendation is implied to the lilac herein listed: Midwest Gem, Orchid Chiffon, Woodland Violet, Blue Angel, Dresden China, Etoile de Mai, Dawn, Dusk, Firmament, Celestial Blue, Moonlight, Night, Nocturne, Sunset, Mount Blanc, Vestale, Diana, Carmen, Flora, Hallelujah, Glory.

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I CLIP, YOU CHIP.

Roy Sullivan's clipping bureau of Bennington, Vermont, clipped a news release featuring I.L.S. in the Laconia (N.H.) Citizen of July 2nd which told of an illustrated talk your president gave before the New Hampton Garden Club entitled "Gardening over 50". The last paragraph mentioned ILS's founding and membership.

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AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP.

Through the courtesy of Regional Vice-president Lourene Wishart of Lincoln, Nebraska, I.L.S. for the past year is an affiliate member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, 4401 Magnolia Avenue, Saint Louis, MO 63110. He receives the bi-monthly bulletin, The National Gardener.

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WINTER PRUNING.

Any warm day in late winter is a good time to inspect your lilacs, the common kind, with an eye to improving flower quality. Of course it's too late to influence the quality of this year's blooms because the flower buds were set last summer, lilacs being shrubs which bloom as the leaves are unfolding. But you can see the branches now and judge the quality of the wood. Eliminate twiggy growth which shows progressively shorter shoots and smaller flower buds. Optimum growth for common lilac is to have pencil-like shoots with a pair of plump terminal buds. Once shrubs become twenty years old they begin to decline in quality of flower production.

I like Al Lumley's cavalier attitude toward pruning. He wacks good growth back heavily. The regrowth in a couple of years produces clusters a foot tall, handsome, the way lilacs should be grown, the pristine state which prompted their selection in the first place. Don't be afraid. Lilacs are tough plants. Look how they survive after homesteads are abandoned for generations. Treat 'em rough. Watch them respond. You'll be amazed, and gain confidence in the bargain.

BACK TO ROCHESTER. Circle these dates, May 21-22-23, Friday through Sunday, we return to Highland Park at the peak of bloom, we hope fervently. Headquarters will be the (Hilton) Inn-on-the-Campus, R.I.T. on West Jefferson Road (Rt. 252), West Henrietta, telephone (716) 436-0520. Bill Utley and his Convention Committee have put together a mustn't-miss program. You will see the new Rochester strain lilacs developed by Dick Fenicchia over the past twenty years, visit two large gardens nearby, learn of our Lilac Heritage, greet longtime friends once again, and take home some hitherto hard-to-find choice lilacs.

Our fifth annual membership meeting this year falls on the U.S. Bicentennial celebration. And this year, too, our second Rochester convention coincides with the Monroe County Lilac Time festival. We shall be participating in some of the wonderful programs put on by the Parks Department under Alvan Grant's direction. There will be a parade, a band concert, and a dedication of a new lilac walk in Highland Park.

This year also we shall stretch the program over three days, and although the schedule features many highlights, still there will be more time between events, the better to accommodate those delegates who require a slower pace. The Inn-on-the-Campus has excellent facilities and is convenient to Thruway and airport. Transportation and all meals except breakfasts shall be furnished. The only imponderable is Rochester's capricious springtime weather.

The opening session, held in the Inn's meeting room, will feature speakers on various subjects pertaining to lilacs: Arthur Trimble of Eastman Kodak Company will talk on photography, Audrey O'Connor of Cornell Plantations, Ithaca, will tell of America's lilac heritage, Drs. Craig Hibben of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Kitchewan, and Jerry T. Walker of Experiment, Georgia, will report on effects of atmospheric pollutants on lilac growth, while our own Father Fiala will project upon lilacs in the future.

After dinner on Friday evening the annual business meeting and election of one-third of the Board will be held, following which hospitality will be enjoyed in the Chairman's Suite until the wee hours.

Saturday morning promptly at 9 a.m. cars will await delegates and shuttle between the Inn and Highland Park for all-day festivities, returning to the Inn following an early evening dinner at Warner Castle put on by the Rochester Herb Society. The evening will be reserved for the Lilac Auction and Benefit Plant Sale, proceeds going to the Research and Education Fund.

The visit to Highland Park allows ample time for freely inspecting that world-famous lilac collection, photographing and wandering among the 22-acres and the thousand or so plants including over 500 cultivars and species. The Lilac Time schedule, however, is rather tight in order to accommodate the public visitors. There will be a parade, band concert, and special ceremonies. The program will be available upon registration.

At half past seven Sunday morning Father Fiala will celebrate mass in the Chairman's Suite. All delegates are invited. Sunday is the climax happening. Buses will leave the Inn promptly at 9 a.m. for an all-day tour of Monroe, Wayne and Ontario counties. First stop will be at Monroe County's Smith Road nursery overlooking Irondequoit Bay with the Rochester skyline in the distance. In this four and one half acre nursery Dick Fenicchia has 1700 Rochester F-3 seedling lilacs which have reached shoulder height and are now in the blooming stage. Here we shall see the modern American Twenty-first Century hybrid lilacs. These

are a further refinement of the parent 'Rochester' with neat upright flower clusters, with non-fade colors, and with compact habit. Dick will be ready to greet delegates and guests and to tell the story and answer your questions. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience which I'm sure you will not want to miss, seeing seedling lilacs before they are introduced, or even selected. It is a chance for you yourself to act as judge, to look deeply into the future of a plant and to forecast its acceptance.

By eleven o'clock we shall be back into the buses and heading eastward to Clyde and Grape Hill Farm, where we shall inspect the two-acre lilac arboretum of Bill and Lois Utley. Here we shall enjoy our box lunch and then depart for Canandaigua and the once fabulous Sonnenberg Gardens, now adjoining the Veterans Hospital grounds. This large garden complex is being restored to its original glory and is fast becoming an Upstate horticultural attraction. We shall return to the Inn by five o'clock.

After a brief rest we shall again gather poolside for a cocktail hour prior to the Lilac Banquet. Dr. Clarence Gehris of Brockport State University will tell of his 1975 trip to the Botanical Congress at Leningrad and excursion into the Caucasus.

This is a rapid sketch of events. There will be much much more. For instance, announcement will be made about the Lilac Distribution Committee's activities last summer whereby members will be afforded the opportunity to participate in a novel I.L.S. project.

You come !

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The 'Miss Kim' Lilac.

By Professor E. M. Meader, Rochester, New Hampshire.

It was November 11, 1947, a holiday in Seoul, Korea, where I was stationed as horticulturist for the U.S. Army Military Government. That meant a day free for hiking in the nearby Pouk Han Mountains. Early that morning a companion and I set out through the old city's North Gate with C-rations and canteens tied to our belts.

Uphill and down dale we followed well-troden trails until we had scaled Paik Un Dae (white cloud point or peak), 892 meters in height. There stunted pines and shrubs grew in crevices where sufficient soil had clung to the craggy granite. On a cliff high above I spotted a lonesome upright shrub, shoulder high, neatly ensconced in a wide crack of rock. Two inches of snow had collected under the plant despite bare ground at lower elevations. As I examined its twigs and seed pods I knew it must be a lilac. Could the dried capsules still contain any seeds in such a windswept place? A diligent search rewarded me with a few, most had gone with the wind !

Back home in 1948 I planted my twelve precious seeds which I'd collected that previous Veterans' Day in Korea. Seven thrifty seeds sprouted. Five grew into tall upright plants like their parent in the Korean mountains. Two, however, although strong and vigorous enough, were rather dwarf by comparison. All seedlings proved hardy, and in time bloomed -- late, a full week or so after 'James Macfarlane'. The fragrant single flowers, purple in bud and when first open, fade to a blue-ice whiteness before falling.

