



The Pipeline

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'ROCHESTER' SEEDLINGS EXHIBITED. Thyrses of the 'Rochester' strain lilacs were on display by the dozens as Conferees gathered at poolside on Friday to open I.L.S.'s Fifth Convention, our second at Rochester, New York. Chlorinated water sustained the cut inflorescences which were exhibited without foliage. Delegates were able to examine and admire at close range the sturdy clusters, the radial doubling of individual florets and the exquisite colors.

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HIGHLAND PARK LILACS. This year the lilacs had peaked a week earlier, so we were seeing the late "French hybrids" ('Furst Bulow' was tops) and the species in contrast to 1972 when we saw the early hybrids and Havemeyer's 'Hallelujah'. Every year is different weatherwise. 'Rochester' itself was disappointing with sparse bloom. However, several of the numbered 'Rochester' seedlings were outplanted and in good bloom. Notable were the white 'Barney Slavin' and the blue 'John Dunbar' across the walk from each other. It takes several years for newly planted lilacs to become established. We shall look forward with great expectations to our third Rochester convention.

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THAT UPSTATE DARK LILAC. Enroute to Rochester your editor admired a certain "purplish" lilac in dooryards all across New York State. This lilac is much darker than the old-fashioned lilac. In fact, it is not even blue, or false blue. Upon close examination it is red! The clusters are in pairs, erect and quite full. At the George Landis Arboretum at Esperance, New York, it is labeled 'Mrs. W.E. Marshall'. Fred Lape assures me that this variety is available (or has been until recent times) from Upstate nurserymen.

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EICKHORST ELECTED PRESIDENT. The Board of Directors elected Walker E. Eickhorst of the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Illinois, to the presidency at its organizational meeting at Rochester on Saturday, May 22nd. Mr. Eickhorst sends the following greetings: "I hasten to acknowledge, with thanks, your trust in me. I.L.S. is a young organization, but please be assured that

we will do everything possible to promote the worthy representation of the genus Syringa throughout the wide range of our membership. These aims we hope to accomplish through the various media available to us along with a modest but ongoing plant material distribution program. When deemed timely and appropriate, we will endeavor to publish material in keeping with both scientific and practical application -- provided such information can be adjudged as being of significant value and general interest."

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NEW DIRECTORS. Richard A. Fenicchia of Rochester, New York, and William Heard of Des Moines, Iowa, were elected to the Board of Directors at the Annual Membership Meeting, Friday evening, May 21st. Dick Fenicchia is superintendent of horticulture in the County of Monroe parks department. Bill Heard operates Heard Gardens of Des Moines specializing in landscape work and lilacs.

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LILAC AUCTION. Spirited bidding indicated that many of the lilac offerings were targets of opportunity at the recent Convention. Credit goes to Bill Utley for lining up donors and ferreting out choice varieties. President Eickhorst served as auctioneer. Marge Fenicchia served as cashier. Principal beneficiaries were the successful bidders who took home to their gardens choice lilacs of excellent quality and useful sizes.

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I DREAD EARLY SPRINGS, writes John Wister from Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. In southeastern Pennsylvania, he continues, we don't get them as often as seems to happen further south or further inland, but still one comes along every six or eight years. Then forsythia and daffodils come into bloom in late March instead of the first or second week in April. They are very lovely and are not hurt by early frosts, but many other things are.

Among flowering trees Magnolia denudata, M. Kobus, M. salicifolia and M. stellata are pretty sure to be blackened by frosts after April 1st and up to the 15th. Fortunately the buds of the beautiful varieties of M. Soulangeana are not often far enough along by mid-April to be injured more often than once in ten or twelve years, and this is true also of commercial apple and peach orchards and of strawberries. In rhododendrons only R. mucronulatum and its variety 'Cornell Pink' are apt to be hurt. The flowers of R. vernicosum and three or four others were spoiled by a May 11th frost nearly ten years ago, but that was the only time.

Lilacs are not often injured in this way here, but it has happened once or twice in the past twenty or thirty years. Then the buds of Early Hybrids were not discolored the way magnolias were. In fact we did not realize they had suffered until we began to wonder why the flowers were not opening.

The varieties affected here have been those that normally open a few days before most of the other early varieties. These were 'Anabel' (of which the ancestry is not recorded), 'Fenelon', a Giraldii hybrid, and 'Churchill', a dilatata hybrid. Even 'Turgot', the Giraldii hybrid that was so much earlier than all the others at Highland Park at convention time in 1972, was not affected here, but I have a strong suspicion that my plant is not identical with the ones at Rochester (indeed I suspect that several

different clones are masquerading under the name of 'Turgot' which, if true, accounts for the widely different opinions friends of mine have expressed about it).

I hope members in other parts of the country will send me reports about frost damage to their plants.

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