



The Pipeline

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GROWING AND TRIMMING LILACS - By Dr. John P. Rankin, in Elyria (Ohio)
Chronicle-Telegram (reprint by permission).

Lilacs start growing early in the spring and the transplanted bush must sense its contiguity with the garden soil before it can make other than a temporary and abortive effort to grow. One should not assume that a large bush from the nursery will give flowers sooner than perhaps a smaller, cheaper size. The large bush may never take root in the new location, or it may suffer the loss of one or two of its larger shoots the first winter or summer.

PLANTING - An important plant needs a large hole with the soil worked up in the summer and allowed to settle until planting time. The general area should be moist, if possible, but with no standing water, and it should be mainly in the sun. The soil should be soft and mellow, with some humus, but with enough clay binder to keep the plant from being pulled out by hand, when once set. No trash nor coarse litter should be used, and the hole may be as much as three feet wide and half that distance deep.

No fertilizer need be added at once, it might prove a handicap if water should seep into the planting because of strong detergent action on the new roots thrown out. The soil pH reading ... should stand about neutral or slightly on the alkaline side, if possible, more so than in growing roses, which enjoy a bit more acid. Bone meal or small amounts of lime, soaking into the soil later on, are helpful. Also, later, old manure, not more than neutralizing the effect of the bone meal or lime, may be helpful. Bought formulas in multiples or divisions of 4-8-4 are used quite satisfactorily -- that is, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in the ratios noted, along with 'trace elements'. However, there is no hurry to fertilize the planting. Several months later will do.

The roots should be pruned only if broken, and then spread out in the re-dug hole so that the hub or heart of the root system may rest firmly upon a central mound of soil. Then when the roots are all covered, one can tramp about the plant stem causing it to sink in the ground so that the nursery ground level mark on the plant is even with the surrounding ground. In a few weeks the root of the plant will sink slightly so that this soil mark may be no deeper than one inch below the level as planted. If the plant is too deep, it fails to get proper physiological balance between soil elements and oxygen.

A good tug with the hand will record whether the plant is well set and if it has a long cane or two, it should have received a stake along side, before the nearby roots are covered. If a stake is driven down blindly, a precious root may be broken off. Tie any tall canes to this stake with soft material. Before the hole is completely filled with soil, it may be filled with water,

which should drain away. Then the soft soil may be slightly hilled up about the stalks, but not so high as with roses, and if it is a dry spring, a slight depression is left about the plant as a catch basin.

Also, some straw or open litter may be scattered lightly over the mound, and, spring or fall, the main shoots may be wrapped softly with porous cloth to prevent thermal injury and drying. Straw may be used in the fall after the mice are under for the winter.

Naturally, if the plant has been well set, with few air pockets left in the hole to cause root-drying in the hot weather, or water-logging in damp weather, the job is done and the plant will soon feel itself a fixture. No water need be used in planting if the soil happens to be wet, but in that case, more than usual care is exercised to obliterate all air pockets, so that the soil may seem almost as it was before digging.

COMMON ERRORS - Either the plant is set five or six inches too low; or planted so gently that the whole area becomes a veritable bath-tub filled with soggy mud or stagnant water in which the plant gradually drowns.

SOIL MOISTURE - Later on, if one is concerned with the correctness of planting, the moisture content may be told by the deeply inserted finger, or the root may be partly uncovered and even pried up if too deep and the plant then shaded. It is no worse to lose a bush that way than by smothering or drowning. To be sure, a plant needs air and water at the root, but it likes them microscopically applied by the very action one provides when he digs and plants properly.

MULCHING - In hot weather, after a spring planting a wide collar of loose straw may avoid the air ring where the planting soil separates from the surrounding garden. There are times when a big top on a small root has to be sacrificed or shortened at once, to avoid top-heaviness in weight or physiology, smaller plants doing better.

SPACING - When one is planting a group of bushes and has in mind what he wants and what the contours and conditions of the plot call for, he may set his bushes even 12 or 15 feet apart for specimens or singly at a turn of a fence or at a building edge or as accent plants. If a screen is desired, the plants may be closer than eight feet and if his interest, like ours, is in the variety and habit of blooms, he may plant as close as three feet, if there is not much crowding at the rear. It is indeed difficult for one to think of even a small space that could not hold a lilac bush, producing some satisfactory type of horticultural effect, accent-corner cover, long screening, picket fence adornment, or dooryard delight. In fact, the poets, Alfred Noyes, Robert Louis Stevenson, Amy Lowell, Violet Jacob, Wilson MacDonald and Walt Whitman, all emphasize varying aspects of the lilac, as it strikes the mood and sensitive soul of each.

It would be wrong, after reading the above directions, to assume that the writer has become a perfect grower, or that his mistakes have been few, or all in the past. Among roses and lilacs, alike, his garden is a catalogue of epic and lesser blunders. But it is a good place to learn what not to do and to see how to grow things poorly, if not properly.

CARE THE FIRST YEAR OR TWO - After planting it will take a bush several years to get on its feet, so it should be set where it is supposed to remain. At first the plant will show some physiological "die-back" and the blossoms will not be perfect, but one can, meanwhile, shape the plant by thoughtful pruning,

giving it an open airy center, and making a bush where no sap is wasted in poorly growing shoots.

If the plant has made good growth the first summer, and it is a wet fall, it should not be hilled up much, if any, for next winter. In fact, wrappings and a mound of earth may be taken off gradually the first summer, to be replaced if wilting results.

The straw is turned over to avoid dampness beyond a certain degree about the stems as they emerge from the ground, but the stake may remain the first or second winter.

NORMAL CARE - One may consider the plant as active and healthy and needing normal care, which isn't too much in comparison with rose culture; a little loosening of the soil, but not to hurt the shallow feeding roots, fertilizing in the late winter, spring or summer, but not in the fall, to avoid late, tender growth; and not too much nitrogen in the mixture unless one desires the plant to vegetate to a greater height or possible leafiness, for some well considered reason. Not too much acid peat mulch should be used unless neutralized with lime in some form.

VARIETAL CHARACTERISTICS - Some varieties grow tall for you and not for me, and vice versa, but here are some observations and there could be more. The old white single lilac is the tallest, but in the process of producing large and double white florets and heavy panicles, this height has been well sacrificed. Also, while the "old white" is early, the hybridized whites may be very late. The old "lilac"-tinted forms are generally tall, though not like the "old white" and their blossoms range more toward the top of the bush, while hybridization has brought these blooms almost to the ground. There are a few older dark purple, hybridized varieties, like 'Charles X' and 'Charles Joly', which grow tall but many of the latter very dark sorts are timid growers. Some varieties always are bushy, throwing up many shoots to self-smother and be attacked by pests, or to be judiciously thinned out for future blossoms. Some send out many snakers or root-shoots apart from the heart of the plant, which one is delighted to transplant, while other sorts stick to one or two trunks, which can little be spared, but cherished and pampered for fear of disease or storm. These old trunks tend to twist in the same direction in any locality, their trunks suggesting the shag-bark hickory.

PRUNING - Sometimes a definite variety will throw up several upright shoots along the older branches if these bend over. If, in these cases, the very top of the branch seems enfeebled and poorly blooming, it may be pruned down somewhat so that these "upstart" shoots may reach the light. However, if a bush is throwing up plenty of shoots each year, it is better not to top-prune but rather to take out one or two old stalks to the ground each season, leaving no heavy stocks or branches to die back and pick up fungus diseases. New shoots will easily push up, but it should take from five to ten years to renovate a bush. There is no hurry.

NAME TAGS - After the planting season all bushes should be catalogued and tagged, the tag being fastened on a prominent branch and made out of zinc strip which is doubly slashed almost through lengthwise; the outer ribbons being gently coiled about the branch to allow for expansion, while the central ribbon is marked with acid. These can be bought.

SPENT BLOOM REMOVAL - We are occasionally asked whether the seed pods ought to be cut off after the blooming season, and just where on the shoots flowers can be cut for the house or as gifts, without causing a set-back to the plant. In answering the second question first, because it is fresh in mind, we reason as follows: Of course one wants the finest blooms possible to enjoy in the house, or to give away from the garden. Well, if his bushes are huge specimens he can cut almost anywhere, but if his bush is not too florabund and needs all the growth possible for its next blooming season, either the next year or the following, according to year and variety, he is greatly embarrassed, in offering a friend a bouquet, to have the visitor point to a huge cluster high on the finest upright growing branch. The fact is that the gardener and the friend ought to be satisfied with some lesser blooms from side shoots, unless the bush is bursting with bloom. If one takes side-shoot blossoms, he should not take all, for the two stems that make next year's flowers are even then growing out lateral to the flower in question and next year's bloom or its absence is all wrapped up in those new end shoots. All the new end shoots cut off on lateral branches of a plant means more sap to the tall, upright branches which will soon carry the blooms out of reach on a leggy plant. To be sure, this reasoning applies more to those gorgeous upper shoots with the huge bunches of bloom. Most of them must be spared. So lilac cutting when necessary on a modest scale becomes a very judicious procedure.

Top shoots may be pinched out to correct a plant. By the end of the blooming season, almost, the new end shoots, lateral to the fading blossoms, rapidly become very stout. Then it is that the blossoms, now useless, should be snipped off, except for an occasional one left for seed.

Many double sorts do not set seed, because, perhaps, of poor pollination, so one may watch all the green pods open here or there before snipping off those not desired. Most flower heads may be cut off about one half inch above the fork between the new shoots, being careful not to loosen or snap these off at their bases.

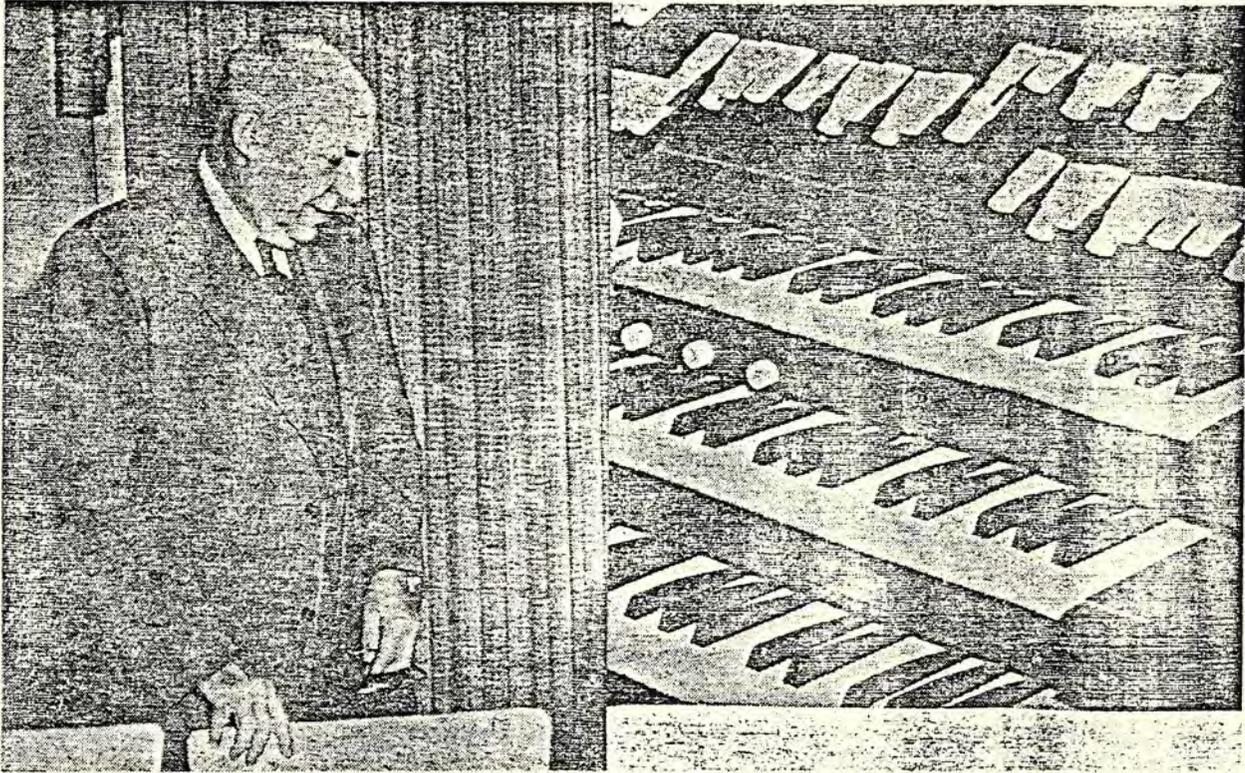
An occasional variety or plant may not make early lateral shoots close to the flower, but slowly may develop next year's shoots from the basal section of the flower tuft itself. Therefore, where no good lateral shoots appear early, and there seem to be several small leaflets, low among the florets of the bloom, hesitate to cut the faded bloom at its extreme base, but rather, two inches distal, leaving a few green pods that may be snipped off later as the case demands.

Of course, on an "off-year", as for instance with apple trees, a lilac plant has few blossoms, no trimming of pods is needed. It is only in proportion to the profusion of seasonal blooms, that one snips seed pods. The bush will be more sightly next spring when the flowers are out and by comparison of similar biological facts, it seems to many observers that a branch or a plant with an intent on ripening seeds, cannot be expected adequately to prepare, simultaneously, for a return of the reproductive cycle, namely the setting of flower buds for the next year.

SUMMER PRUNING - While trimming the seed pods in summer, one can size up the health of those old branches which have carried flowers for several years and treat them as above noted. Do not waste the plant's vitality by leaving branches and twisted twigs on the plant until fall, when it is evident early in the summer that they should be cut off. Thus plant vigor can be early directed to the growing and early ripening of fine new cane-shoots which will

branch when mature at three or four years, if pruned at the very ends of their green growing tips, producing many first class blooms.

This "summer round-up" is not finished without an eye to the promising new root-shoot at the periphery of the plant which shoot may be staked, and after another year, when it is well-rooted, cut away to produce a new plant.



"I knew Dr. Rankin and had high regard for him. He was a man of many talents. He was a capable gardener with deep interest in lilacs and roses. He was an accomplished musician all in addition to his professional reputation as a good surgeon and beloved doctor", says Mr. O.B. Schoepfle, Chairman of the board of the Lorain County Printing and Publishing Company.

SIXTH CONVENTION AT AMHERST - The Lord Jeffery 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.

For room reservations please write as soon as possible to:-

MR. RAYMOND J. KELLEHER,
MANAGER,
LORD JEFFERY INN,
AMHERST, MASS. 01002.

or

MR. ALBERT E. LUMLEY,
79 So. PLEASANT STREET,
AMHERST, MASS. 01002.

and indicate in your letter that you are an INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY member.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO DELEGATES OF SIXTH ILS CONVENTION AT AMHERST, MASS.

The I.L.S. will have at least one registration helper at the Inn, as well as another at Lilac Land.

The time schedule will be followed as closely as possible. Free time that occurs will be used at the discretion of President Eickhorst, or for showing slides.

We must be prompt on coming to meals on or before scheduled time. Speakers are asked to honor the time schedules.

Everyone is urged to be present for the picture of the group.
9:00 a.m. outside, Saturday.

The bar will be our own and drinks should be paid for promptly.

Don't miss the AUCTION. We are counting on this being a big success.

"Lilac Land" has about 1600 plants of about 190 varieties that are from one to twenty years old. They are tagged 2 or 3 times. Rain will alter our viewing program and notices regarding these changes will be posted at the Inn.

The registration charge of \$25. will cover the President's Dinner on Friday, the 60 passenger bus on Friday and two smaller buses Saturday afternoon and evening, as well as incidentals. Any balance will go to the Society.

Mr. Kelleher, manager of the Inn, and I believe that our accommodations will be adequate. Fifty-four people have already sent in their reservations. We expect, however, that several additional members will decide to come.

The Lord Jeffery Inn will charge \$17. for one person; twin bedded room for two persons will be \$26. Two double beds for two people will be \$28. Two people sharing one double bed will be \$25. Charges for meals are moderate and the quality is excellent.

Lord Jeffery phone 1-413-253-2576 -- Mgr. Ray Kelleher.

The Saturday evening auction, to which the public will be invited, will be fun, and we are hoping for great success and thus enrich the Society's coffers. We already have offers of over 500 lilacs for the auction and for gifts. We can use more plants. Do some thinking about what you can contribute.

All will be welcome to return to "Lilac Land" again on Sunday afternoon for a rest, social interchange and libations.

Peter Pan Bus Lines service Amherst. Our airport is 40 miles away at Bradley Field, Connecticut - on arrival rent-a-car and take I-91 for Northampton then Route 9 to Amherst. Alternate take bus for Springfield and transfer there for Amherst.

Al Lumley.

LILAC PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The Propagation and Distribution Committee has as a goal the dissemination of select rare or new lilac cultivars to all ILS members. Not only will such a function provide plants of cultivars not available, but also can provide additional financial stability to expand the research, publication, and educational activities of ILS. With member participation, it is feasible to both provide select plants and produce a source of revenue to be reinvested in the extension of current activities or to initiate additional ILS projects. The goal is not monetary-orientated, but is a service to members which in turn will further the ILS objectives.

Any cultivars or species included in this program must be very select and will only be propagated from the original plant, if known, or a true-to-name plant. The propagation will be done for ILS by several professional nurserymen who will employ techniques that will produce an "own root" plant.

In order to make superior plants of select cultivars available, advance planning is necessary to locate a source of scions, enter into an agreement with the nurserymen, secure scions, do the propagation, grow the plants for at least one season, and make distribution to members. If plants of larger sizes are preferred by ILS members, a minimum of 3 years will be required. In any case, this is a long term investment that necessitates long range planning. As this is a new undertaking, the first attempts will to a degree be trial-and-error. However, to minimize the error and to give the committee some guidelines, the feedback of the entire membership is solicited in the completion of the enclosed questionnaire.

From the initial budding undertaken in 1975, 362 plants have been produced that will be ready for distribution in 1977. Since these include 37 species and cultivars, there are limited numbers of each. Several ILS Chapters have expressed interest in procuring plants for donation to public gardens or institutions for demonstration plantings. Possibly, since the number of plants of each clone is relatively small, the first distribution will be chiefly through Chapters. In 1976 an additional 736 plants have been budded. Among these are several new items that are in very short supply and will need be stock-increased to produce a larger quantity of plants prior to any distribution. From this modest start the project can be adapted to the ILS membership needs as reflected by the survey response. Since plants will only be available to ILS members, this is another tangible benefit of the few dollars spent for ILS dues and an incentive to encourage other lilac enthusiasts to become ILS members.

The following list includes some of the best, old as well as new, cultivars that have been recommended for propagation. An older variety that is not readily available could well be a more noteworthy plant in a

newly developed garden than a new novelty, and warrant equal consideration with new introductions. Your response will materially assist in the final determination of those to be propagated. This is a preliminary list, and it is not implied that all cultivars will be propagated. Because of the many ramifications of the project, only a limited number of cultivars can be efficiently and economically produced each season. This magical number is yet to be determined. Hopefully, the schedule for one season might evolve to be a new introduction and one or several rare cultivars. Your committee will strive to maintain balance between species, colors, novelties, new introductions, and best rare cultivars.

Potential Syringa Cultivars and Species
for Propagation by International Lilac Society

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Descr.</u>	<u>Origin</u>
'Anne Tighe'	D VII	Yaeger, 1945
'Bicentennial'	S III	Fenicchia (New)
'Bountiful'	S V	Clarke, 1949
'Carley'	S I	Havemeyer
'Caroline Foley'	S VI	Rankin
x <u>chinensis</u> f. <u>bicolor</u>	S I	Species
'Christophe Colombo'	S IV	Lemoine, 1905
'De Miribel'	S II	Lemoine, 1903
Dr. W. Bugala (Dr. Chadwick)	S V	Karpow, 1962
'Dwight D. Eisenhower'	S III	Fenicchia, 1968 (New)
'Edith Braun'	S VIII	Rankin
'Edward J. Gardner'	D V	Gardner, pre-1950
'Etoile de Mai'	D VI	Lemoine, 1905
'Fenelon'	S V	Lemoine, 1937
'General Sherman'	S V	Dunbar, 1917
'Hosanna'	D IV	Fiala (New)
'James Stuart'	S VI	Havemeyer
'Jane Day'	S VII	Havemeyer
<u>laciniata</u> x <u>pinnatifolia</u>		Species Hybrid
'Lady Lindsay'	S VI	Havemeyer, 1943
'Lewis Mattock'	S V	Rankin
'Little Miss Muffet'	S V	Fiala (New)
'Lucie Baltet'	S V	pre-1888
'Maiden's Blush'	S V	Skinner, 1966
'Marechal Foch'	S VI	Lemoine, 1924
'Maud Notcutt'	S I	Notcutt, 1956
'Miss Canada'	S V	Cumming, 1967
'Mood Indigo'	S II	Clarke, 1946
'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'	S VII	Havemeyer, 1924
<u>pinetorum</u>	S V	Species
'Professor E. H. Wilson'	D I	Havemeyer, 1943

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Descr.</u>	<u>Origin</u>
<u>reflexa</u>	S V	Species
<u>rhodopea</u>		Species
'Rochester'	D I	Grant (New)
'Rosace'	D IV	Lemoine, 1932
'Sarah Sands'	S VII	Havemeyer, 1943
'Sensation'	S VII	Maarse, 1938
'Silver King'	S III	Lemke
'Souv. d'Alice Harding'	D IV	Rankin
'Summer White'	S I	Lape (New)
'Sunset'	D VI	Clarke, 1949
'Superba'	S V	Chenault, 1934
'The Cheat'		
<u>tigerstedtii</u>		Species
'Triste Barbaro'	S VII	?
'True Blue'	S III	Havemeyer
'Violet Glory'	S II	Castle, 1969 (New)
'Violetta'	D II	Lemoine, 1916
'Zulu'	S VII	Havemeyer

Key:

S - Single
D - Double

I White
II Violet
III Bluish
IV Lilac
V Pinkish
VI Magenta
VII Purple

LILAC PROPAGATION AND DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE SURVEY

In order for the Committee to plan and project the demand for plants, each member is requested to complete and return this questionnaire to:

Dr. Donald R. Egolf
14600 Cambridge Drive
Upper Marlboro, Md. 20870

1. If lilac plants were available, I would purchase the cultivars checked from the International Lilac Society:

<input type="checkbox"/> 'Anne Tighe'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Marechal Foch'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Bicentennial'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Maud Notcutt'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Bountiful'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Miss Canada'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Carley'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Mood Indigo'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Caroline Foley'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'
<input type="checkbox"/> x <u>chinensis</u> f. <u>bicolor</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>pinetorum</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Christophe Colombo'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Professor E. H. Wilson'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'De Miribel'	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>reflexa</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Dr. W. Bugala' (Dr. Chadwick)	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>rhodopea</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Dwight D. Eisenhower'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Rochester'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Edith Braun'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Rosace'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Edward J. Gardner'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Sarah Sands'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Etoile de Mai'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Sensation'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Fenelon'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Silver King'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'General Sherman'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Souv. d'Alice Harding'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Hosanna'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Summer White'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Lewis Mattock'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Sunset'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'James Stuart'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Superba'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Jane Day'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'The Cheat'
<input type="checkbox"/> <u>laciniata</u> x <u>pinnatifolia</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>tigerstedtii</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Lady Lindsay'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Triste Barbaro'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Little Miss Muffet'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'True Blue'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Lucie Baltet'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Violet Glory'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Maiden's Blush'	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Violette'
<input type="checkbox"/> 'Zulu'	

2. The following additional new or rare cultivars I recommend for ILS propagation and distribution: (If known, please indicate a true-to-name source of propagation material.)

3. The 10 cultivars, in priority sequence, from the above list that I would purchase first are:

1 _____	6 _____
2 _____	7 _____
3 _____	8 _____
4 _____	9 _____
5 _____	10 _____

4. I would be interested in purchasing the following number of cultivars per year:

_____ 1, _____ 2-5, _____ 5-10, _____ more than 10

5. I would purchase plants of each cultivar in the following quantity:

_____ 1, _____ 2, _____ 3, _____ 4, _____ 5, _____ more than 5

6. I would prefer to purchase plants of the following size:

_____ Under 12"	_____ 24" - 30"
_____ 12" - 18"	_____ 30" - 36"
_____ 18" - 24"	_____ more than 36"

7. For a select rare cultivar that is not readily available from a commercial nursery, I would pay the following prices for a plant:

Under 18"		2 - 3 feet	
_____ \$3.50	_____ \$7.50	_____ \$3.50	_____ \$11.50
_____ 4.50	_____ 8.50	_____ 5.50	_____ 13.50
_____ 5.50	_____ 9.50	_____ 7.50	_____ 15.50
_____ 6.50	_____ 10.00	_____ 9.50	_____ 18.50

8. For a new cultivar introduced by the International Lilac Society, I would pay the following price:

_____ \$7.50	_____ \$17.50	_____ \$27.50	_____ \$37.50
_____ 12.50	_____ 22.50	_____ 32.50	_____ 50.00

9. Transportation of my plants, which I pay in addition to cost of plants, could most efficiently be by:

_____ Parcel Post - Special Handling	_____ Air Freight
_____ United Parcel Service	_____ Distribution by local ILS Chapter
_____ Greyhound Bus Line	_____ Other

10. Name: _____

Address: _____
