



The Pipeline

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THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of people who share a particular appreciation and fondness for lilacs. By exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members, it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness of lilacs.

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Syringa Oblata Dilatata

Many people interested in lilacs desire a type that flower early and remains as a medium-size shrubby plant. The demand for such a plant is satisfied by *Syringa oblata dilatata*.

The Korean early lilac is a shrubby plant of eight to ten feet in height and becomes a plant about as broad as high. It is a native of Korea and was introduced in 1917.

The leaves are ovate in shape, long acuminate, up to four or four and one-half inches long, with a truncate or slightly cordate base. They are glabrous both above and below. They have a fairly attractive purplish-red fall color.

This variety of lilac flowers about two weeks earlier than the common lilac, usually from the middle to the latter part of April, with purplish-lilac flowers. The flowers are borne rather loosely in panicles two and one-half to five inches long.

The Korean early lilac should be planted in well-drained soil of near-neutral reaction. Plants should be given sunny exposures. Rheder list *Syringa oblata* as being hardy in zone 3. A renewal system of pruning should be followed, and the old flowers should be removed as soon as they fade. While scale and borer frequently present a serious problem with the common lilac, *Syringa oblata* and *Syringa oblata dilatata* seem to be less susceptible to these pests. Propagation may be by cuttings, budding or grafting.

This lilac will find its use as a specimen, for border planting and to some extent for foundation planting. It can also be used as a hedge.

Syringa Pekinensis

When a larger, hardy shrub with good-looking foliage and attractive, fragrant flowers is wanted, *Syringa pekinensis* is a worthy choice. Native to north China and introduced in 1881, this species has proved suitable for use in zone 4 and parts of zone 3.

Reaching 15 feet, with slender, spreading branches which are brownish red, with cherrylike bark peeling when young, this lilac has ovate to ovate-lanceolate, lightly veined leaves dark green above and grayish green beneath. The most appealing feature of this species is its profusion of creamy-white flowers which are borne in large panicles often eight inches in width; the heavy fragrance of these strikingly handsome blooms, on a quiet day, perfumes the air for considerable distances from the plant. Also of merit is the late blooming season of *S. pekinensis* which is at its best some weeks after most horticultural sorts have flowered.

While the need for such large-growing shrubs in general landscape work is limited, it takes little imagination to visualize the impressively beautiful effect an extensive planting of this exotic lilac would present if used on the parkway dividing a double thoroughfare.

The lilac is not a difficult plant to grow and will do well with minimum care. Any fairly good, well-drained soil will give satisfactory results, but for vigorous growth and good flowers, organic fertilizers do much, especially well-rotted manure, if worked into the ground every two or three years. Purely chemical fertilizers should be used with caution, because of their tendency to induce excessive woody growth at the expense of good flower buds.

MINUET LILAC by Wilbert G. Ronald

(Reprinted from LANDSCAPE, by permission of
Mrs. Gwen Stupple, Editor.)

With over 400 lilac species and cultivars flowering in the Morden Arboretum, it is not easy to designate any one new cultivar as a marked improvement in its group. Most of the hybrid lilacs consist of the American hybrids bred by the late Dr. F.L. Skinner, the French hybrids, and the late flowering hybrids, often called the Preston hybrids.

In the late flowering group, a 1972 introduction registered with the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation (COPF), bred by Dr. W.A. Cumming, merits wide use as a landscape plant. This lilac, *Minuet*, is a small growing plant with a dense growth form. Its growth rate is about half as fast as most of the late lilacs. Large dark green leaves fully clothe the branches. *Minuet* does not sucker to any extent. Flowers in a light purple colour are borne profusely and annually; seed pods are few in number.

Propagation of the late lilacs such as *Minuet* can be readily accomplished from softwood cuttings under mist. With its improved features, *Minuet* can serve an important role in landscaping. Propagating material is available from COPF distributor growers.

The following paragraphs discussing "The Pipetree" (*Syringa*) may be of interest to you even though they go back a number of years.

It has been reprinted by permission from "A Garden of Pleasant Flowers" by John Parkinson, Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Vnder the name of *Syringa*, is contained two speciall kinds of Shrubs or Trees, differing one from another; namely, the *Lilac* of Matthiolus, which is called *Syringa carulea*, and is of two or three sorts: And the *Syringa alba*, which also is of two sorts, as shall bee declared.

1. *Lilac sine Syringa carulea*. The blew Pipe tree.

The blew Pipe tree riseth sometimes to be a great tree, as high and bigge in the bodie as a reasonable Apple tree (as I haue in some places seene and obserued) but most vsually groweth lower, with many twigs or branches rising from the roote, hauing as much pith in the middle of them as the Elder hath, couered with a grayish greene barke, but darker in the elder branches, with ioyns set at a good distance one from another, and two leaues at euery ioynr, which are large, broad, and pointed at the ends, many of them turning or folding both the sides inward, and standing on long foote stalkes: at the toppes of the branches come forth many flowers, growing spike-fashion, that is, a long branch of flowers vpon a stalke, each of these flowers are small, long, and hollow belowe, ending aboue in a pale blewish flower, consisting of foure small leaues, of a pretty small sent: after the flowers are past, there come sometimes (but it is not often in our Country, vnlesse the tree haue stood long, and is grown great, the suckers being continually taken away, that it may growe the better) long and flat cods, consisting as it were of two sides, a thin skinne being in the midst, wherein are contained two long flattish red seede: the rootes are strong, and growe deepe in the ground.

2. *Syringa flore lacteo sine argenteo*.
The siluer coloured Pipe tree.

This Pipe tree differeth not from the former blew Pipe tree, either in stemme or branches, either in leaues or flowers, or manner of growing, but onely in the colour of the flower, which in this is of a milke, or siluer colour, which is a kinde of white, wherein there is a thinne wash, or light shew of blew shed therein, comming somewhat neare vnto an ash-colour.

3. *Lilac lacimatis folijs*. The blew Pipe tree with cut leaues.

This Pipe tree should not differ from the first in any other thing then in the leaues, which are said to be cut in on the edges into seuerall parts, as the relation is giuen *à viris fide dignis*; for as yet I neuer saw any such; but I here am bold to set it downe, to induce and prouoke some loue of plants to obtaine it for his pleasure, and others also.

The single white Pipe tree or bush, neuer commeth to that height of the former, but abideth alwaies like a hedge tree or bush, full of shootes or suckers from the roote, much more then the former: the young shootes hereof are reddish on the outside, and afterward reddish at the ioynts, and grayish all the rest ouer: the young as well as the old branches, haue some pith in the middle of them, like as the Elder hath: the leaues stand two at a ioynt, somewhat like the former, but more rugged or crumpled, as also a little pointed, and dented about the edges: the flowers growe at the toppes of the branches, diuers standing together, consisting of foure white leaues, like vnto small Muske Roses, and of the same creame colour, as I may call it, with many small yellowish threads in the middle, and are of a strong, full, or heady sent, not pleasing to a great many, by reason of the strange quicknesse of the sent: the fruit followeth, being flat at the head, with many leafie shels or scales compassing it, wherein is enclosed small long seede: the rootes runne not deepe, but spread vnder the ground, with many fibres annexed vnto them.

5. *Syringa Arabica flore albo duplici.*
The double white Pipe tree.

This Pipe tree hath diuers long and slender branches, whereon growe large leaues, somewhat like vnto the leaues of the former single white kinde, but not so rough or hard, and not at all dented about the edges, two alwaies standing one against another at euery ioynt of the stalke, but set or disposed on contrary sides, and not all vpon one side; at the ends whereof come forth diuers flowers, euery one standing on his owne foote-stalke, the hose or huske being long and hollow, like vnto the white Iasmine, and the flowers therein consisting of a double rowe of white and round pointed leaues, fve or six in a rowe, with some yellownesse in the middle, which is hollow, of a very strong and heady sweet sent, and abiding a long time flowring, especially in the hotter Countries, but is very tender, and not able to abide any the least cold weather with vs, for the cold windes will (as I vnderstand) greatly molest it: and therefore must as charily be kept as Orenge trees with vs, if wee will haue it to abide.

The Place.

The first groweth in Arabia (as Matthiolus thinketh, that had it from Constantinople.) We haue it plentifully in our Gardens. The second and third are strangers with vs as yet. The fourth is as frequent as the first, or rather more, but his originall is not knowne. The last hath his originall from Arabia, as his name importeth.

The Time.

The first, second, and third flower in Aprill, the other two not vntill May.

The first is called of Matthiolus *Lilac*, and by that name is most vsually called in all parts. It is also called *Syringa carulea*, because it commeth nearest vnto those woods, which for their pithy substance, were made hollow into pipes. It is called of all in English, The blew Pipe tree. It seemeth likely, that Petrus Bellonius in his third Booke and fiftieth Chapter of his obseruations (making mention of a shrubbe that the Turkes haue, with Iuic leaues alwaies greene, bearing blew or violet coloured flowers on a long stalke, of the bignesse and fashion of a Foxe taile, and thereupon called in their language a Foxe taile) doth vnderstand this plant here expressed. The certainty whereof might easily be knowne, if any of our Merchants there residing, would but call for such a shrubbe, by the name of a Foxe taile in the Turkish tongue, and take care to send a young roote, in a small tubbe or basket with earth by Sea, vnto vs here at London, which would be performed with a very little paines and cost. The second and third, as kindes thereof, haue their names in their titles. The fourth is called by Clusius and others, *Frutex Coronarius*; some doe call it *Lilac flore albo*, but that name is not proper, in that it doth confound both kindes together. Lobel calleth it *Syringa Italica*. It is now generally called of all *Syringa alba*, that is in English, The white Pipe tree. Some would haue it to bee *Ostrya* of Theophrastus, but Clusius hath sufficiently cleared that doubt. Of others *Ligustrum Orientale*, which it cannot be neither; for the *Cyprus* of Plinie is Dioscorides his *Ligustrum*, which may be called *Orientale*, in that it is most proper to the Easterne Countries, and is very sweete, whose seede is like vnto Coriander seede. The last is called by diuers *Syringa Arabica flore albo duplici*, as most fitly agreeing thereunto. Of Basilius Besslerus that set forth the great booke of the Bishop of Eystot in Germany his Garden, *Syringa Italica flore albo pleno*, because, as it is likely, hee had it from Italy. It is very likely, that Prosper Alpinus in his booke of Egyptian plants, doth meane this plant, which hee there calleth *Sambach, siue Iasminum Arabicum*. Matthæus Caccini of Florence in his letter to Clusius entitleth it *Syringa Arabica, siue Iasminum Arabicum, siue Iasminum ex Gine*, whereby hee declareth that it may not vnfitly be referred to either of them both. We may call it in English as it is in the title, The double white Pipe tree.

The Vertues.

We haue no vse of these in Physicke that I know, although Prosper Alpinus saith, the double white Pipe tree is much vsed in Egypt, to help women in their trauailes of childbirth.

Reprint from Golden Valley Post Newspaper - June 23, 1977.

A visitor bearing gifts arrives at Golden Valley's
Lilac Fest (Golden Valley is a suburb of Minneapolis, Minn.)

by Carol Braun

Golden Valley had a few visiting queens during the Lilac Festival these past weeks. Among them would have to be counted Lourene Wishart.

Mrs. Wishart, a native of Lincoln, Neb. (the Lilac City) and vice president for the midwest area of the International Lilac Society, likes lilacs so well that she came to Golden Valley just for the Festival.

And she not only came, but arranged for Golden Valley to receive a "Golden Primrose" lilac bush. This new variety of Lilac was just dedicated this past May at the International Lilac Society Convention in Amherst, Mass. (Which Mrs. Wishart also attended, of course). The yellow-blooming lilac was hybridized in Holland in 1974, but so far is very scarce in the United States.

Mrs. Wishart is a long-time friend of the family of Mary Ann Powell of the Lilac Festival Committee. Mrs. Powell is also from Lincoln, and that's how Mrs. Wishart came to hear of the Lilac Festival.

A flower show judge for 30 years in the U.S., Canada and Mexico, Mrs. Wishart still travels extensively at age 86. She gets around by car (a white Cadillac) and driver, "and I'll tell you why," she said. "If I go by car, when I get within a couple hundred miles of my destination, I can begin to see how roses grow in the area." Sometimes she'll even stop at an especially attractive garden and ask to look.

"They love that, and it's a big help. But if you fly, you fly right over them."

Mrs. Wishard did not bring the Golden Primrose Lilac to Golden Valley with her - the season just isn't right. The bush will arrive in September. However while here, Mrs. Wishart participated in a dedication ceremony reserving a spot for the lilac in the nature area by the community library that was done by the Golden Valley Women's Club last year.

At the ceremony, she also recited a poem she had written about the Golden Primrose Lilac and gave a few choice pointers on keeping it healthy. (It will need, for example, "well-rotted old cow manure.") She said the bush should grow very well in Golden Valley. "Lilacs like this area."

Although a vice president, Mrs. Wishart maintained she is no "big shot" in the International Lilac Society. "The Midwest is not as big in Lilacs as the East", she explained. "Just try being from the Midwest if you don't think so." Her area goes from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to lilacs and roses, Mrs. Wishart is also an avid fan of the Nebraska Big Red football team.

While in Golden Valley, Mrs. Wishard said she was wined and dined by the Lilac Festival Committee and had such a good time, she plans to return. She also attended the queen candidate Sponsors Dinner, where she wrote a new poem commemorating the 1977 Lilac Festival in Golden Valley.

Did you know that ... one inch of wood is four times as efficient an insulator as cinder block, six times as efficient as brick, 15 times as efficient as concrete or stone, 400 times as efficient as steel, and 1,770 times as efficient as aluminum.

Interspecific hybridization experiments in *Syringa*
series villosae (oleaceae) - James S. Pringle

An in depth report of the rather extensive work being done by Dr. Pringle of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8, was published in BAILEYA (a quarterly journal of horticultural taxonomy) Vol. 20, No.2 - January 1977. This is an excellent report consisting of 40 pages and includes 43 B. & W. photos of foliage and trusses.

While we would most certainly like to claim publication of the very fine work for ILS, may it suffice to say that the basic interest probably lies with the limited number of members who are vitally involved in the breeding aspects of the Society. Yet your Editor is cognizant of the fact that there is an interest within the membership. Single copies are available (\$1.25) by writing to L.H. Bailey Hortorium, Mann Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853. Make all remittances payable to BAILEYA.

Ed.

LAST CALL - persons who had a part in the program, committee reports, etc. related to the ILS Conference at Amherst and have not yet presented a printed copy for inclusion in the 1977 PROCEEDINGS, please get your material to me as soon as possible (those who have already submitted copy please ignore) - plans are to lock up the copy on or about September 6. While one or two presentations will not lend themselves to meaningful print, we do wish to make the 1977 PROCEEDINGS as complete and accurate as possible.

Ed.