



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. V, No. 2, February, 1979

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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

This publication, *LILAC NEWSLETTER* (formerly *THE PIPELINE*) is issued monthly. Back copies are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mr. Charles Holetich, Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8N 3H8. Please send 50 cents for each copy requested.

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	\$ 5.00
Family	7.50
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SOME REMARKS ON MY NEW LILACS

by Dirk Eveleens Maarse Sr.

The following article appeared in DENDRON 1(1):11-13 (July 1954), the news bulletin of the International Dendrology Union (now International Dendrology Society), reprinted here with the kind permission of its Editor.

It is a great pleasure for me to write an article for "Dendron" about the lilac-novelty raised by our firm. Since 30 years we are working to improve the assortment of forcing lilacs, which is still quite limited in Aalsmeer (Holland). Though we can speak here in Aalsmeer of a real lilac-industry, the assortment of varieties is limited. This is not so strange as it might appear to you when you remember that the great Mr. V. Lemoine of Nancy (France) always specialized in the breeding of garden lilacs and never took interest in the forcing abilities of a lilac. Yet Mr. Lemoine may be considered as the greatest lilac-hybridiser in the world.

Below we are describing a small number of seedlings which we tested and selected from the thousands of seedlings grown by our firm during 30 years. We have given a short description of our observations and of course we are aware of the fact that we may have to alter some of our judgements in the future. It is a difficult task to find out the good and bad qualities of a novelty. One season differs from another and often two successive forcing periods may give unequal results.

We start from the principle that every valuable seedling must be presented to the Special Committee of the Royal Netherlands Horticultural Society. If this committee gives our seedling an Award of Merit, a name is chosen. This variety is further tested and results are communicated to the Committee in order to obtain the First Class Certificate. With this procedure we achieve the guarantee for our clients that the variety they buy is of excellent quality.

We have always specialized in the forcing of lilacs, but with the laying out of the Lilac-Park in Aalsmeer our interest was aroused in the garden lilac. A very attractive planting comprising some 150 different species and varieties has been achieved in only a few years. The garden is worth visiting during flowering time.

The varieties (cultivars) mentioned below are all single flowered and are raised and introduced by the Fa. W. Topsvoort, Aalsmeer, Holland. (A.M. = Award of Merit); (F.C.C. = First Class Certificate.)

'Sensation' (Topsvoort) Netherlands Plant-Patent No. 117; U.S.A. Plant-Patent No. 1742; F.C.C. - Sport of 'Hugo de Vries'. Growth and forcing are equal to 'Hugo de Vries'. 'Sensation' has the same slender growth and also produces very long stems, very suitable for decorative purposes. The colour is very striking, dark purple with a pure white margin on each slip of the perianth. This is the only known true bi-coloured lilac.

'Jhr. G.F. van Tets' (Topsvoort) F.C.C. 1950. - This sport of 'Hugo de Vries' with same habits as 'Hugo de Vries' earns its value principally from the very striking silver lilac-pink colour when forced. We do not know any other lilac that shows the same delicate colour when forced.

'Excellent' (Topsvoort) F.C.C.; Parents: 'Jan van Tol' x 'Mme. Fl. Stepman'. - Late flowering and therefore less suitable for early forcing. Produces exceptionally heavy stalks with giant spikes. The largest flowers we grew up had a stalk with several spikes which had a length of 45 cm and 35 cm across; the very large florets are white. A very good, late flowering garden lilac.

'Johan Mensing' (Topsvoort) F.C.C. 1942; Netherlands Plant-Patent No. 116; Parents: 'Marie Legraye' x 'Mme. Fl. Stepman'. - This is a very valuable variety for forcing as well as for the garden. Blooms are quite easily forced when well prepared. Was awarded F.C.C. as a garden plant. Early and abundantly flowering with large spikes, composed of large, rich lilac-pink florets. The stems are long with a tendency to bend a little. Is cultivated in Aalsmeer by several growers for forcing.

'G.J. Baardse' (Topsvoort) F.C.C. 1953; Parents: 'Ambassadeur' x 'Hugo de Vries'. - This variety belongs to a group with very large flowers; florets reaching easily a diameter of 35 mm. The strong stems carry imposing long and slender spikes. Is very suitable for forcing in the middle and late season, produces very solid and strong bushes of quite healthy growth in garden and park.

'Voorzitter Dix' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1950; F.C.C. 1953; Parents: 'Ambassadeur' x 'Marechal Foch'. - Strong grower with beautifully shaped spikes. A nice robust bush with fine leaf arrangement. The strong stems do not bend easily in a storm, a variety for forcing in the middle season. The colour is dark lilac with medium sized florets on strong pyramidal spikes.

'Madame Rosel' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1950; Parents: 'Marechal Foch' x 'Hugo de Vries'. - Very fine lilac-pink forcing lilac which strongly reminds of the older 'Gloire de Lorraine'. The growth, however, is much better, one year old stems of 125 cm. are no rarity. The plant is very free flowering with beautiful medium sized florets and nice compact spikes.

'Andre Csizik' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1950; Parents: 'Ambassadeur' x 'Hugo de Vries'. - A very good grower with large spikes and large florets on strong stems of considerable length. When buds open the colour is purple, gradually lightening into lilac-pink. Suitable for forcing in the middle season.

'Treesje Topsvoort' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1948; F.C.C. 1953; Parents: 'Marechal Foch' x 'Hugo de Vries'. - A comparatively weak growing bush, but a very prolific bloomer. The colour is of a particular lovely soft shade. For forcing in the middle season.

'Riet Bruidgom' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1950; Parents: 'Reine Elisabeth' x 'Mme. Fl. Stepman'. - A pure white lilac, with very straight and strong stems, seems to be a suitable lilac for forcing in the late season. The spikes are beautifully slender, pyramidal shaped. The medium sized florets are placed close together.

'Gerrie Schoonenberg' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1950; Parents: 'Marechal Foch' x 'Excellent'. - This is a very remarkable pure white lilac, a strong grower with elegant spikes and loosely spaced florets. Probably a lilac with a future.

'Hugo Mayer' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1948; Parents: 'Decaisne' x 'Ambassadeur'. - Very dark coloured lilac. Large flowering variety for the middle season. Fair grower with strong stems and nicely shaped leaves.

'Burgemeester Voller' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1948; Parents: 'Excellent' x 'Johan Mensing'. - This variety is remarkable with its erect growing spikes of a particular shade of beautiful purple-red when forced. Bushes are regularly formed and have a strong growth.

'Flora 1953' (Topsvoort) A.M. 1953; Netherlands Plant-Patent pending; Parents: 'G.J. Baardse' x 'Excellent'. - This is the best pure white single flowering lilac. Florets easily reach a diameter of 35 to 40 mm. when forced, which is the largest size we ever saw. Spikes are very well formed and recall a slender shaped 'Marie Legray'. Stems are as straight as an arrow and of strong and slender form. Very abundantly flowering bushes with stems that will not blow off. When cut, flowers keep very well in water. We expect a great success for this variety in many parts of the world.

We finally have a great collection of seedlings under observation, amongst them several of distinguished form and colour. At the moment we have not yet finished our tests and so we cannot give you a good judgement on these novelties. We would like to mention these results later on.

At some other nurseries in Aalsmeer the following novelties were raised:

'Primrose' (Maarse) Introducer Mr. J. Spek, Boskoop; F.C.C.; Netherlands and U.S.A. Plant-Patent. - Sport of 'Marie Legray' with growth and habits of this parent. But this variety has cream yellow coloured flowers which is exactly the colour of Cytisus praecox. A very remarkable lilac.

'Victorie' (Tulp) A.M. 1952; F.C.C.; Netherlands Plant-Patent. - This lilac strongly recalls a sport of 'Mme. Fl. Stepman', but flowers are of considerably larger size. Parents are not known.

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DIRK EVELEENS MAARSE was born in Aalsmeer, the Netherlands, on August 25, 1881. There seems to have been no question about him becoming a gardener. When the state horticultural winter school was founded in Aalsmeer in 1897 16 year old Dirk enrolled as one of the first students. After finishing the course he went for half a year to North America to gain experience and practice the language. On his return he joined the family enterprise, Topsvoort nurseries.

In those years the main products of Topsvoort were clipped yews and boxwoods. The First World War paralyzed the export on which Topsvoort depended. Mr. Eveleens Maarse had become interested in dahlias as a sideline, but now he made the switch, and dahlias became the specialty at Topsvoort. Well over one hundred dahlia cultivars originated at Topsvoort, many of them received awards.

His interest in lilacs was sparked in the 1920s by one of his friends and colleagues, D.C. Keesen, who suggested that he should work toward a better white forcing lilac that should have only the good qualities and advantages of 'Marie Legraye' and 'Mme. Florent Stepman'.

Dirk Eveleens Maarse died at the age of 94 on May 24, 1975.

- Lit. ref.: Eveleens Maarse, D. Deutsche Baumschule 5(3):71, 72 & 74 (Mar. 1953)
Paul, L. Vakblad voor de Bloemisterij 29(17):31 (Apr. 26, 1974)
See also : ILS Newsletter 1(2):19 (Jan. 1972)
ILS Pipeline 1(12):last page (Sept. 1975)

Freek Vrugtman, Hamilton

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TIME AND TALENT VOLUNTEERS

Much of the work of the International Lilac Society is done in its committees. Some of the Committees such as the Executive and Publication have a set membership, but the others ought to be shared by the greatest possible number of people. The Society will grow and prosper if there are new people and new ideas for those committees.

It is nearing nomination time again, and I need to know the committee on which you would like to serve. The use of the personal pronoun was deliberate. We need you! I have heard the comment..."Oh, I can't help; I'm not a professional." In a specialized lilac society, we are all professionals and a good idea is a good idea even if it comes from people who think they don't have special training.

I've listed some committees where we would welcome volunteers. Would you please take a few minutes to (drop me a line) (check off the list) with an indication of the committees where you'd like to help? It is always easiest to "let the other person do it"; but, if you let that happen pretty soon it is their Society, not yours. Volunteer now!

Budget and Fiscal

Audit

Gratuities, donations and benevolences

Nominations

Election

Convention

Membership

Publications

Seed and Scion Exchange

Propagation and Distribution

Promotion and Education

Awards

Auctions

Send your name and committee choices to:

Dr. Owen M. Rogers
Department of Plant Science
University of New Hampshire
Durham, New Hampshire 03824

* * *

I.L.S. CONVENTION - DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Friday - Saturday, June 8 - 9, 1979

The theme of this year's convention will be "Back to College". It will feature classroom lectures, laboratory exercises, dormitory rooms, and, maybe, even a surprise quiz. Most of all it will feature the lateblooming lilacs. The date allows enjoyment of the regular season lilacs at home, and then a trip to Durham to see the lilacs that bloom in June, July, and August. In addition, the tours will take advantage of the area's unique geological historical, and horticultural features.

Tentative Convention Program

Thursday, June 7, 1979

6:00 p.m. Registration desk opens in Lord Hall

Friday, June 8, 1979

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Continental breakfast - Lord Hall
Registration desk open

8:00 - 10:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting - Board Room,
Alumni Center

10:00 - 12:00 noon Talks - Alumni Center
10:00-10:40 a.m. The newest and best of
RBG Lilacs, Charles
Holetich
10:40-11:20 a.m. University of New
Hampshire Lilac Plantings
11:20-12:00 noon Lilac Photography

Noon Lunch - New England Center Buffet

1:30 p.m. Seacoast Tour (featuring the Governor Fuller
Rose Gardens, the rugged rock-bound coast
of New England, and the historical Straw-
berry Banke area including the All-America
Flower Test Trial Gardens)

5:00 p.m. Social hour - Lord Hall

6:00 p.m. Supper - Alumni Center

7:30 p.m. Society Meeting - Alumni Center

Convention (Cont'd)

Saturday, June 8, 1979

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Continental breakfast - Lord Hall
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting - Alumni Center
10:00 - 12:00 noon	Talks 10:00-11:00 a.m. Lilacs in England - O.M. Rogers 11:00-12:00 noon Propagation Workshop - J. Alexander
12:00 Noon	Lunch - Horticulture Farm
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Lilac Session - Horticulture Farm (including pollination exercises, selection of desirable forms and tours of other fruit and vegetable research)
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Campus tour (featuring computers, lasers, galleries, and other aspects of a modern university)
5:00 p.m.	Social hour - Lord Hall
6:00 p.m.	Supper - Alumni Center
7:30 p.m.	Auction - Alumni Center

Saturday, June 10, 1979

Continental Breakfast and Check Out -
Lord Hall

The cost has not yet been determined since some details of meal costs have not been decided. They will be publicized in the Newsletter when the registration material is ready.

Also full transportation information will be included with the registration packet. Durham is reached easily by car (Rte. 4 from Interstate 95), plane (fly to Logan and take the limousine - \$28.00 round trip), or bus (Michaud Lines out of the Greyhound terminal in Boston).

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WEEKLY NOTES

Experimental Station, Morden, Manitoba.

May 31st, 1952

REPRINTED with the generous permission of Wilbert G. Ronald,
Research Scientist at the MORDEN EXPERIMENTAL STATION.

LILAC time at the Morden Experimental Station is a gala period each year. In 1952 the blooming dates are about three weeks in advance of normal. The bushes have been full of flowers. Notes on the Common Lilacs and their hybrids reveal former favorites continuing to have special appeal.

The average homemaker has accommodation for only a few bushes. Personal tastes differ considerably. A very select collection in seven colour groups are:

	<u>Single Flw'd</u>	<u>Double Flw'd</u>
<u>White:</u>	'Vestale'	'Edith Cavell'
<u>Pink:</u>	'Lucie Baltet'	'Mme. Antoine Buchner'
<u>Magenta, reddish:</u>	'Mme. F. Morel'	'Paul Thirion'
<u>Violet:</u>	'De Miribel'	'Violetta'
<u>Blue or Bluish:</u>	'Decaisne'	'Olivier de Serres'
<u>Lilac:</u>	'Marengo'	'Leon Gambetta'
<u>Purple:</u>	'Monge'	'Andenken an Ludwig Spath'

Among deep purples there is lack of a fully satisfactory double. Many of the double purple varieties fade in bright sun or the petals carry white or violet markings which produce an uneven mixture. However, for the very dark colors, the singles are effective and are considered fully satisfactory.

Other cultivars which bloomed freely and displayed a luxurious display include; 'Edmond Boissier', 'Victor Lemoine', 'President Poincare', 'President Loubet', 'President Viger', 'Emile Gentil', 'Danton', 'Marceau', 'Jacques Callot', 'Marechal Lannes', 'Planchon', 'Paul Hariot', 'Othello', 'Mrs. Edward Harding', 'Paul Deschanel', 'President Fallieres', 'Montaigne', 'Henri Martin', 'Maurice Barres', 'Miss Ellen Willmott', 'Marechal Foch', 'Capitaine Baltet', 'Duc de Massa', 'Thunberg', 'Georges Bellair' and 'Katherine Havemeyer'. Each one of these belongs to lilac aristocracy and is grown with deep enjoyment. It is very important that plants be on their own roots. When grafted on Common Lilac, suckers are a constant nuisance. Moreover, they tend to dominate and overcome the desired tops to which they are grafted. The result is that the grower loses his choice variety and in a few years has only the plebeian old Common Lilac.

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1979 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE

A number of I.L.S. members already took the initiative to renew their 1979 membership, and by doing so are saving your society the time and money.

Be a positive supporter, renew your membership today.