



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VI, No. 7, July, 1980.

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.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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.

*President:* Dr. Owen M. Rogers,  
University of New Hampshire, Dept. of Plant Science,  
Nesmith Hall, Durham, N.H. 03824.

*Secretary:* Walter W. Oakes\*  
Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276

*Treasurer:* Mrs. Marie Chaykowski  
4041 Winchell Road, Mantua, Ohio, 44255

*Editor:* Walter E. Eickhorst  
129 West Franklin St., Naperville, Illinois. 60540

*INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY,*  
William A. Utley, Ex. Vice-Pres.,  
Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433.

#### MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

	<u>1980 (\$ US)</u>
Single annual .....	7.50
Family .....	10.00
Sustaining .....	15.00
Institutional/Commercial .....	20.00
Life .....	150.00

\*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary.



HOMESTEAD DRAPED IN LILAC HAZE

I.L.S. director Max Peterson of Ogallala, Nebraska, got a three column spread with photograph in the Omaha "World-Herald" by staff writer Tom Allen on May 29th. Allen got his lead from former I.L.S. director Lourene Wishart of Lincoln who urged him to see Nebraska's outstanding lilac collection.

"Homestead draped in lilac haze" was the banner under the photograph of Max standing near a heavily flowered white lilac in the four acre garden planted to some 300 cultivars collected by the Petersons -- Max and Darlene -- over the past ten years. Peterson's grandfather built a "soddy" (sod house) twelve miles southeast of Ogallala in 1885. Max and Darlene have added a contemporary wing to it and now call their home "Meadowlark Hill".

Max conceded to reporter Allen that he's "hooked" on lilacs because, after getting his seed planted, a wheat farmer can do little except "pray for rain and that it doesn't hail until after harvest". Recent reports from Ogallala confirm that Max and Darlene can grow superb lilacs. I.L.S. members next May will want to visit "Meadowlark Hill" enroute to Des Moines.

Robert B. Clark

PLANT AUCTIONS AT I.L.S. ANNUAL CONVENTION

The donation of quality plants by members and institutions is resulting in outstanding auctions held during our annual May conventions. Spirited bidding is resulting in ever increasing amounts of money for our treasury.

The variety of plants available for auction is improving each year. The results of our 1979 and 1980 auctions are as follows:

	No. of items donated	Amount of money earned
1979	200	\$ 841.25
1980	180	\$ 928.25

Now is the time for all concerned to start preparing plants for our 1981 Convention to be held at Des Moines, IA.

Hanssen Schenker, Chairman  
PLANT AUCTION COMMITTEE

Editor note: This is the way bigger and better auctions come about. We already have the promise of some plants of 'Edward J. Gardner' (an outstanding pink).





## from the ... ... Registrar's Desk

Freek Vrugtman, Curator of Collections, Royal Botanical  
Gardens, Box 399, HAMILTON, Ontario, CANADA L8N 3H8

Most of the garden lilacs which are offered for sale commercially are correctly classified in catalogues and price lists; furthermore, most of these lilacs can be traced to a known origin or known originator. There are exceptions, however, such as the cultivars 'Aladdin' and 'Sulte'. Dr. James S. Pringle, Plant Taxonomist at the Royal Botanical Gardens, has taken a critical look at the plants grown under these two names at Hamilton, and the Registrar has summarized the background information in the registration files. — We would appreciate hearing from anyone having further information on these cultivars.

### Syringa 'Aladdin'

'Aladdin' is probably derived from three species, namely S. josikaea, S. reflexa, and S. villosa. S. villosa and S. josikaea are obvious ancestors, from the morphological evidence. Some traits less definitely suggest S. reflexa ancestry. This species would also be expected on historical grounds if in fact 'Aladdin' originated in Manitoba.

(J.S. Pringle)

Jewell Nurseries Inc. of Lake City, Minnesota, has grown 'Aladdin' lilac since the early or mid 1940's; they believed that their material came originally from the Morden Research Station in Manitoba; however, there appears to be no evidence of an 'Aladdin' lilac ever having been grown at Morden, and 'Aladdin' is with certainty not an origination of W. Russel Leslie as suggested in ARNOLDIA 23(4):80 (April 12, 1963), this has been stated repeatedly by members of the Morden Research Station's staff.

The plants at the Royal Botanical Gardens were raised from cuttings taken at the Arnold Arboretum in 1974; the Arnold Arboretum received its material from Jewell Nurseries in 1960.

The Lilac Plant Source List (The PIPELINE, special issue, April 1977) lists three commercial sources for 'Aladdin' of which Jewell Nurseries kindly responded to our request for information; Gurney Seed & Nursery Co., Inc. of Yankton, South Dakota, and Kroh Bros. Nurseries, Inc. of Loveland, Colorado, did not respond to repeated requests for information.

Syringa x josiflexa 'Sulte'

'Sulte' appears to be best regarded as a cultivar of S. x josiflexa. There is clear morphological evidence of S. josikaea and S. reflexa in its ancestry. S. villosa is not indicated, although its influence could be obscured in later-generation progeny of 3-species ancestry. However, in view of the relative antiquity of 'Sulte', complex ancestry involving several generations of breeding is unlikely.

(J.S. Pringle)



Howell Nurseries of Knoxville, Tennessee, lists Syringa 'Sulte' without description in its wholesale trade list of 1927; in the price list, 1943-1944, it is listed as S. rothomagensis 'Sulte', pinkish lilac flowers. Mr. Joe N. Howell, in a recent letter, states that according to his recollection plants of 'Sulte' lilac were obtained originally from Harlan P. Kelsey of Boxford, Massachusetts; no evidence of this has been found to date.

Donald Wyman, in an article on Preston lilacs in ARNOLDIA 8(7):34 (July 23, 1948), lists 'Sulte' as a cultivar of S. x chinensis. The plant at the Arnold Arboretum was obtained in April 1936 from Howell Nurseries.

The Lilac Plant Source List (see above) lists J. Herbert Alexander of Middleboro, Massachusetts, as the only commercial source for 'Sulte' (listed as S. x prestoniae). The late Mr. Alexander received his propagating material from the Arnold Arboretum plant; the plants at the Royal Botanical Gardens were raised from cuttings of Mr. Alexander's plant in 1974.

---

CORRECTION:

The following courtesy acknowledgment was inadvertently omitted from page 3 (THE LILAC GARDEN REVISITED) of Vol. VI, No. 6, June, 1980.

Reprint - This article originally appeared in FERNWOOD NOTES No. 142 (Gardens), April 1979, and is reprinted herein with the express permission of Mr. Stan Beikmann, Director, FERNWOOD, Inc., 1720 Range Line Road, Niles, MI 49120.