



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VII, No. 6, June, 1981

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*.

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NOTES ON SOME OF THE NEWER LILACS

BY E. L. Kammerer

\* Reprint

Lilac-time, May 1961, will long be remembered at the Arboretum, both as a season of profuse bloom and as one of prolonged effectiveness. Because of cool weather colors were not only brighter and deeper than usual, but harmonies more pleasing and contrasts more brilliant. A number of the comparatively new and lesser known cultivars blossomed exceptionally well, affording in many instances our first good opportunity for a critical appraisal of their ornamental qualifications. A dozen of the most outstanding ones are:

'Anne Schiach' (Havemeyer '43)

Blooming well at the Arboretum for the first time this spring, this handsome, single-flowered purple impressed us by both its color and long season of effectiveness. Deeply colored in bud, it opens into lighter-toned flowers borne in large, well filled panicles. Individual florets are also large, with recurved petals.

\* Reprinted by permission of the Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill., Bulletin of Popular Information, June 1961, Vol. 36, No. 6.

'Ami Schott' (Lemoine '33)

Although an earlier introduction than the others on our list, 'Ami Schott' is still in the novelty class. Its very double flowers of deep cobalt blue with paler reverses are borne in showy, well filled clusters. The flowers have a long season of effectiveness and tolerate heat remarkably well. Forms a bush of neat, upright habit.

'Charm' (Havemeyer)

Among the pinkish flowered lilacs 'Charm' is certainly worthy of note. A mid-season to late bloomer, it is deep rose-pink in bud, opening pinkish lilac. The medium sized florets are borne in well filled, symmetrical panicles.

'Glory' (Havemeyer)

Extremely large, single, reddish-purple flowers feature this vigorous late blooming Havemeyer introduction. The florets of unusual size are produced in large, open clusters. Develops into a tall, open growing bush.

'Kate Sessions' (Clarke '42)

The W.B. Clarke Nursery of San Jose, California, were the introducers of this S. giraldii hybrid of pleasing lilac-mauve coloring. It is an early to mid-season bloomer, producing large compound panicles of large flowers.

'Monique Lemoine' (Lemoine)

This Lemoine introduction of the late thirties is one of the late, double flowering whites. Its



fully double individual florets approach an inch in diameter, and massed as they are in large, pyramidal trusses give a truly magnificent effect.

'Mme. Charles Souchet' (Lemoine '49)

The fact that it starts to bloom freely while still a small plant will interest many in this beautiful creation with very large, single flowers of a lovely shade of sky blue. Enormous panicles add to its desirability.

'Night' (Havemeyer '53)

Of all the dark purple lilacs in the Arboretum collection, none attracts more attention than 'Night', a very dark single with almost black buds and large florets borne in long, crowded panicles. One of the latest blooming hybrids.

'Primrose' (G. Maarse)

A true yellow lilac is still nonexistent, but 'Primrose', an introduction of G. Maarse of Alsmeer, Holland, is the nearest approach to this color yet produced. Conspicuously primrose-yellow in the bud stage, the florets do then to fade whitish with age. They are of medium size and borne in medium-sized, stubby panicles. To emphasize the yellow in Primrose, try combining it with 'President Lincoln', 'Mme. Charles Souchet'; 'True Blue' or one of the other light blues.

'Priscilla' (Havemeyer '53)

Late blooming 'Priscilla', handsome in appearance, prolific of bloom and very fragrant, is always a favorite. Bearing its single, large, deeply cupped, reddish-purple florets in showy, upright trusses, it gives a superb garden effect. Of

upright growth.

'Sarah Sands' (Havemeyer '53)

Sharing with 'Night' popularity among the late flowering purples, 'Sarah Sands' is another single, with medium-sized flowers displayed in medium-sized panicles. Unlike 'Night' its purple petals are recurved, revealing lighter colored edges. It was still effective as late as June 1 this year.

'Sensation' (1938)

This introduction of the Topsvoort Nursery of Aalsmeer, Holland, is one of the most unusual appearing lilacs in the collection. Its distinction lies in the bicolor effect of its reddish-purple flowers prominently edged white. The individual florets are medium-sized as are the rather open trusses.

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#### BITS OF WIT

It's certainly nice to be important, but probably more important to be nice.

Live wires have no problems meeting deadlines.

Old gardeners never die. They just spade away then throw in the trowel.



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CONVENTION '82

IN

OTTAWA, CANADA

HOME OF THE PRESTON LILACS

MAY 27 - 29

PLAN NOW TO BE THERE

(YOUR U.S. DOLLAR BUYS MORE IN CANADA)

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PLAN NOW TO BE THERE

(YOUR U.S. DOLLAR BUYS MORE IN CANADA)

ARE YOU STILL MISSING THAT LILAC YOU WANTED ?

IF YOU KNOW THE NAME OF THE LILAC YOU  
WANTED TO BUY AND COULDN'T FIND THE SOURCE,  
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LILACS WILL CAST A SPELL IN YOUR GARDEN

by A.R. Buckley

\* Reprint

There's something about lilacs that casts a spell upon almost everyone. In recalling memories of earlier days, the lilac tree stands out as the plant that is always associated with the happier moments of life.

Perhaps this is because nearly every country home or farmhouse has lilacs that bloom year after year with little or no care and attention.

The adaption of the common lilac to our gardens everywhere from the Prairies to southern Canada has made many people think of it as our native. However its natural habitat is Bulgaria and adjacent areas of Eastern Europe, with other species coming from China, Persia, Himalayas, Manchuria, Korea and the tree lilac from Japan.

The common or French lilac is worthy of a place even in the smallest garden where, although often neglected, it will grow and flower with little regard to the soil or the location given it. It doesn't deserve such a fate and if planted in good soil and fertilized it will produce the largest and best lilac blooms you have ever seen or dreamed about.

\* The above article was printed March 1971 in "Garden Notes" of Canada Dept. of Agriculture and is herein reprinted by permission of the Author and the C.D.A.

To ensure success, buy good plants two or three feet high from a reliable nursery. Some nurserymen graft lilacs on privet stock; these are then planted deeply so that before very long the lilac forms its own roots and the privet either dies out or can easily be identified and may be cut out.

Some European nurserymen graft lilacs on to seedling of the common lilac (Syringa vulgaris) and unless this stock is watched very carefully the common lilac will outgrow and overgrow the desired cultivar and in a short time an inferior lilac will result.

Plant lilacs in early spring in a large hole filled with good topsoil or a mixture of topsoil, leaf mould and peat moss and add a five-inch pot full of 6-9-6 fertilizer. Set the plants a few inches deeper than they were set in the nursery (deeper than the collar mark which is easily seen) and water them well.

It is important to cut off all flowers as soon as they fade. This will help produce bigger and better flowers the next year, since the shoots that bear next year's flowers are forming at this time.

Do not cut huge bouquets of lilacs with large woody stems as this will definitely reduce the number and quality of flowers next year because you will remove many future flower buds with this year's bloom.

Periodic renewal pruning is another essential practice to successful lilac growing. Most lilacs soon become overgrown and the few flowers that are produced will be borne at the ends of tall branches.

To prevent this, a balance should be maintained between the new and old growths. On young plants, new shoots from the soil level should be encouraged, but older plants will sometimes become



so crowded with new shoots that they take on an unsightly appearance and will produce fewer blooms.

It is difficult to apply a hard and fast rule to keep a balance of new and older shoots on the plants. Generally, if the desired height is less than 10 feet, the older stems should be cut to ground level every two or three years. thin out new shoot growth, keeping in mind the ultimate height and shape of the plant.

If you have an already established lilac that is not blooming as well as it has in the past or is giving you inferior blooms, perhaps it needs rejuvenating. This may be done by heavy pruning and feeding. If the plant is very old and has formed many stems, during July cut one-half of these to ground level. Next year cut out the rest and thin the new shoots that arise to leave no more than a half-dozen; then feed with a good fertilizer such a 6-9-6 and water well. If the plant is not too old, a good feeding each year with about one pound of 6-9-6 sprinkled about the plant and watered in will promote vigorous growth.

Here is a list of some of the highest rated lilacs of the several hundred cultivars that have been tested at the Plant Research Institute trial gardens:

Single white: 'Mont Blanc', 'Maud Notcutt', 'Marie Legraye', 'White Hyacinth', 'Monument'.  
Double white: 'Alice Harding', 'Monique Lemoine', 'St. Joan', 'Ellen Willmott', 'Primrose' (cream).  
Single violet: 'Cavour', 'Danton', 'Hugo De Vries', 'Mme. Charles Souchet'. Double violet: 'Le Notre', 'Marechal Lannes'. Single blue: 'President Lincoln', 'Firmament', 'Diplomate', 'Decaisne'.  
Double blue: 'Abel Carriere', 'Ami Schott', 'Crepuscle', 'Heavenly Blue', 'Oliver des Serres'.  
Single lilac: 'Ruhm von Horstenstein', 'Marengo', 'Massena', 'Christophe Colombe'. Double lilac:

'Henri Martin', 'Leon Gambetta', 'Michel Buchner',  
'Mme. Leon Simon', 'Victor Lemoine'. Single  
pinkish: 'James MacFarlane', 'Elinor', 'Lamrtine',  
'Lucie Baltet', 'Mrs. Harry Bickle'. Double near  
pink: 'Belle de Nancy', 'Capt. Perrault',  
'Katherine Havemeyer', 'Carmen'.

Single near red: 'Capt. Baltet', 'Charles X',  
'Congo', 'Kate Sessions', 'Marechal Foch', 'Mme.  
Edward Harding', 'Marceau'. Double near red:  
'Linné', 'My Favorite', 'Paul Thirion', 'Georges  
Bellair', 'G.J. Baardsee', 'President Poincare'.  
Single purple: 'Etna', 'Frank Paterson', 'Andenken  
an Ludwig Spaeth', 'Monge', 'Prodige', 'Mrs. W.E.  
Marshall'. Double purple: 'Adelaide Dumbar', 'A.  
B. Lamberton', 'Wm. Robinson'.

There should be plenty of opportunity to  
plant lilacs from next month until the end of May.  
If dreams of new and different blossoms in your  
garden are to materialize, order the plants now  
for your spring planting. In the meantime, as  
soon as the weather is mild, you can thin out the  
shoots in your old lilacs as mentioned above and  
get a good start on the summer and next year's  
bloom.

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#### BITS OF WIT

Dieters go to great lengths to avoid great widths.

The only trouble with being a good sport is that  
you have to lose to prove it.