



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. VIII, No. 5, May, 1982

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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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

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.

A MEMBER WRITES

Our member, Polly Hill of Vineyard, MA writes to thank ILS for the information given in the February NL. It answered some of her questions concerning grafted lilacs. She was also very interested in the published list of those lilacs sold at the 1981 auction as well as those propagated for the 1982 auction.

Ms. Hill goes on to say "I am delighted to see those Russian lilacs getting around. I was impressed with them when I first viewed them in Hamilton (I think it was).

Would it be possible to have someone describe and evaluate and compare them?

I feel strongly that the Lilac Society will never regret the records they have compiled, dated, noted and priced for us. As the years go by it will be even more interesting.

A message I feel that should be stressed to all gardeners is 'Keep your records'. So much can be learned from them and that is the real fun".

Polly Hill
March 10, 1982.

A REQUEST FROM DR. JOEL MARGARETTEN-April 1, 1982

In the March 1982 issue of the Lilac Newsletter I mentioned that many of Hulda Klager's lilacs were lost in the flood, together with the records she had so carefully kept. She was always generous in giving plants to persons who asked for them. Arboreta, parks and individual collectors were recipients of her benefactions.

There are many shrubs in the Hulda Klager Gardens that cannot be identified by the local garden clubs and they are asking for our help.

Enclosed find a list of the lilacs Mrs. Klager registered. If any of the readers have any of these in their gardens or know where they can be located I would appreciate if they would send me scions of these plants next winter when they are dormant so the I could match those with those presently in the garden.

It will take a little detective work but I am sure we can work it out.

Send the scions to: Dr. Joel Margaretten
38570 N. Bouquet Canyon Rd.
Leona Valley, CA
U.S.A. 93550

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

HULDA KLAGER LILACS

Abundant Bloomer (City of Kelso)
Alice
Alice Mills
Anna
Ashes of Roses
Betty Louise
Carmine (Mrs. R.W. Mills)
Celestial Blue
City of Chehalis
City of Gresham (Klagers Dark Purple)
City of Hillsboro
City of Kalama (Kalama)
City of Longview
City of Olympia
City of Vancouver
City of Woodland (Woodland)
Clara
Cora McCormick
Dark Purple (Hulda)
Dawn
Delphinium
Dillia
Dresden China (Clara #2)
Elizabeth Mills
Fluffy Ruffles
Frank Klager
Fred C. Wilke
Fred L. Klager
Fritz
Holly Ann
Hulda (Dark Purple)
Irvina (Irdinia)
Joyce
Katherine
Klager Dark Navy Blue
Klager Dark Red
Klager Dark Rose

Klager Large Dark Double Very Fine
Klager Large Dense Truss
Klager Late Bloomer
Klager Light Pink Abundant Bloomer (City of Kelso)
Klager Loose Panicle
Lavender Pearl
Lillian Lee
Louise
Ma Bennett
Marguerite
Martha
Mrs. Morgan
My Favorite (Favorite)
Naomie
Ostrander
Princess Pink
Roland B. Mills
Ruby
R.W. Mills
Susanna
V.L. Wing
Weddle
Will Rogers
Wm. K. Mills
Woodland (City of Woodland)

Note: Please consult the following article on
procedures about collection, packaging and
mailing of the lilac scions.

COLLECTING, PACKAGING AND MAILING OF LILAC SCIONS

by Charles Holetich

One of the most common methods of distant distribution of lilac cultivars is by exchange of winter scion (cion) wood. Often when scions are requested from sources in different continents their transit time may be so long that the buds may open, new growth be initiated and often covered with mold, thus making the propagating material useless for grafting or budding.

The recent shipment of lilac scions from Minsk to Moscow to R.B.G. Hamilton, Ontario was so succesful that I wish to share the knowledge of its packaging procedures with you.

Requested lilac scions were collected at the Central Botanic Garden, Minsk, Belorussian S.S.R., on February 5, 1982, and the cut ends of the scions dipped into luke-warm paraffin 2-3 cm deep, packed and mailed to the Principal Botanic Garden in Moscow. On February 11th they were repacked into individual plastic bags each containing 4-6 scions per cultivar. Smaller tied bags were placed into a larger one, tied as well.

Please note the absence of wet sphagnum, wet paper towel or similar materials often used in packaging, and often inducing opening of the buds and its deterioration if in transit longer than 14 days.

The scions arrived at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton on March 4th, thus being one month in transit. Some buds were showing slight sign of swelling; all remained closed and free of mold fungus.

Previous experience indicates that scions

collected in January and February will take the prolonged transit better than those collected in March.

Good quality scions of vulgaris and x hyacinthiflora group should be 12-18 cm long and 3-5 mm thick, collected from lower half of the shrub thus assuring greater percentage of foliar buds.

For distant transit (14 days or more) ask that the scions be mailed as "first class- air mail".

If you are aware of other good methods of mailing lilac scions that will be in transit for a prolonged period of time please let us hear from you.

* * * * *

FROM IOWA

A few days ago I received my Lilac list from Heard Gardens, Ltd. of Des Moines.

Our member, Bill Heard, has a nice list of bare root lilacs that he can ship.

I like his list because various sizes, prices and colors are clearly designated. He also includes tips on Lilac Planting which are helpful to those who may be planting their first lilacs.

Editor.

LILAC SEED EXCHANGE, 1982

Sincere appreciation is extended to Fr. John Fiala for making the seeds available.

TO ORDER: List name of seeds desired, include stamped, self-addressed envelope, and mail to:

Roger F. Luce
RFD #1, Box 121
Newburgh, Me 04444

SEEDS AVAILABLE:

Species:

S. komarowii
S. josikaea
S. julianae 'Hers Variety'
S. reticulata 'Chinese Magic' (Fiala introduction)
S. reticulata 'Ivory Silk' (Upright form from
Canada)
S. reticulata, Seedling 9415B (Fiala)

Specie Hybrids:

S. x henryi 'Summer White'
S. x josiflexa 'Anna Amhoff'

Vulgaris:

S. vulgaris 'Maud Notcutt'
S. vulgaris 'Sesquicentennial'
S. vulgaris 'Taglioni'
S. vulgaris 'Dwight D. Eisenhower'

Fr. John Fiala, Falconskeape,
Medina, Ohio

S. reticulata
S. vulgaris 'Henri Martin'

Roger Luce
Butternut Hill Gardens
Newburgh, Me

SEED FROM 1981 EXCHANGE: (In most cases these seeds can be expected to germinate, even though a year old. They are listed here if you wish to try some.)

Specie Hybrids:

S. x josiflexa 'Agnes Smith'
S. tomentella x *S. komarowii* 'Dancing Druid'
S. x josiflexa 'Royalty'
S. komarowii x *S. wolfii* 'Spellbinder'
S. x prestoniae x *S. x josiflexa* 'Miss Canada'
S. patula 'Miss Kim'

S. vulgaris:

'Anne Schich'	'Monge'
'Katherine Havemeyer'	'Priscilla'
'Maurice Barres'	'Sweetheart'
'Macrostachya'	'White Swan'
'Victor Lemoine'	

S. x hyacintiflora:

'Anabel'
'Maiden's Blush'

REMINDER: May I emphasize that seeds of horticultural varieties or hybrids can sometimes yield outstanding plants, but cannot be expected to come true to name. When further distributing

propagation material from such plants, it is important to add the words "seedling of..." along with the cultivar name.

NOTE: we are sorry this list was not included in an earlier Newsletter, but between Bellevue, Iowa and Hamilton, Ontario we sometimes feel like mails travel by pony express. So if you have a news item that is seasonal put it in the mail as soon as you can.

Editor.

* * * * *

I.L.S. MOST WANTED LIST

Dated 3/18/82

We are placing on our "Most Wanted List" the S. vulgaris cultivar 'NEGRO'. A commercial source is needed to supply a major New England nurseryman. The sources in our 1977 "Lilac Plant Source List" no longer offer it.

This lilac was introduced by Lemoine in 1899 and may have been one of the darkest lilacs available at that time. That it received fairly wide distribution is confirmed by it being referenced at least six times in "Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information" Vols. 1 and 2. It was used as the seed parent in crosses by the noted Miss Isabella Preston and a large number of plants were growing in Ottawa in 1922. Miss Preston commented that seedlings showed wide variation but we have no information on further evaluation or the ultimate fate of the plants.

The flower colour of 'NEGRO' is variously described in the "Scrapbooks" as being (a) deep lilac, (b) purple and (c) dark violet-purple. These descriptions agree more or less with Susan McKelvey's book "The Lilac". I have seen it noted that the plant is either dwarf or, at least, slow growing and that immature foliage is red or wine-maroon. Our experience with 'NEGRO' leads us to believe that these characters are sufficiently unique in S. vulgaris to identify the cultivar even when it is not in bloom.

The colouration of immature foliage suggests the presence of S. oblata in the parentage

but I have no information to suggest that parentage is other than *total vulgaris*. The plant habit argues against *S. oblata* being a parent even though this species has been known to produce "dwarf" plants. It is entirely possible the seed came from open-pollination but in the main Lemoine worked with controlled crosses.

Given the dark colour, the slow growth rate and the foliage tints, it is understandable why Lemoine selected the variety for introduction and Miss Preston used it for her crosses. It would be interesting material for crossing now in breeding for dwarf plants since we have 'DR. CHADWICK', 'ZULU' and a few others with a similar plant habit.

We would appreciate having the comments on 'NEGRO' from anyone who grows or is familiar with it. Comparisons with other cultivars in the same colour class would be helpful. A suitable reward will be offered to anyone providing information as to the whereabouts of a commercial source for plants.

Walter W. Oakes
Box 315
Rumford, Maine 04276

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FROM NEBRASKA

From Nebraska Lourene Wishart, past I.L.S. Regional Vice-President writes that she was pleased to hear that Mrs. Eubank of Pratt, Kansas has lilac 'Snowshower'. Lourene reports that it was Henry Sass' favorite white. The Sass farm being only 60 miles from Lourene's home made it easy for her to visit there often and at the request of Henry Sass she named 'Snowshower' along with 'Pink Lace', 'Woodland Violet' and 'Orchid Chiffon'.

Later Henry Sass named a Hemerocallis 'Peach Honey' after Lourene's International Champion Manchester show dog, so it's easy to understand why Lourene misses visiting the Sass farm now that Henry Sass is in a rest home.

Lourene also tells that she has all of the named Sass lilacs; they are at her home and doing well.

We hope we will be reading Lourene's report of a new arboretum she is helping with on the University of Nebraska campus - of course there will be lilacs which are now stored in U of M greenhouses.

Editor.

IN MEMORIAM

On March 31, 1982 we suddenly lost our dear friend, lilac originator and long time I.L.S. member Mr. Leonard K. Slater from Agincourt, Ontario.

Len may be remembered by some from a number of I.L.S. Conventions he attended, especially in the early years (1972-1975), but he may be known better to others by his origination of two superb lilac cultivars - 'Agincourt Beauty' and 'Slater Elegance'.

Both Len and his wife Irene were looking forward to meeting many friends at the forthcoming I.L.S. Convention in Ottawa.

We'll miss you very much.