

# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. X, No. 3, March, 1984

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 . . . . .	\$ 10.00 (as of January, 1984)
Family . . . . .	12.50
Sustaining . . . . .	20.00
Institutional/Commercial . . . . .	25.00
Life . . . . .	150.00

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

I hope that members will find the following list of lilacs helpful. Knowing that Mr. Oakes has long experience with so many lilacs I was particularly interested in his first two choices as both were on my first list a few years ago when we started planting. But, alas, my 'Ludwig Spaeth' has proved to be a common lilac and I could not find a 'Vestale'.

Editor

MAINE CHOICES

Walter W. Oakes, January, 1984

Those who are familiar with a considerable number of lilacs are often asked to list their top choices of ten to twenty lilacs. This is relatively easy provided the choices are made when the plants are not in bloom. The list I compiled of thirty-five varieties could be reduced but it is intended to be useful to those who are planning new purchases and want the best. I have noted in some cases characteristics which may or may not encourage their consideration and welcome comments from anyone who takes exception to expressed opinions.

If I were asked which lilac I would choose if I could have only one the task would be difficult in the extreme, as it would be for anyone who likes lilacs a lot. I have pondered the question for many years and must now allow that mine would be 'ANDENKEN AN LUDWIG SPAETH'. Its rich, deep reddish-purple color, the formation and placement of the single flowers, the shape of long panicles and its plant habit are standards against which all other lilacs might well be judged. (A quite similar variety is Ken Berdeen's 'CHRIS' which blooms a week later).

If fate relented and allowed a second plant, I would not hesitate a moment! My choice would be 'VESTALE'. This classic single, pure white possesses all the qualities of perfection in a lilac.

Here's the list and happy hunting!

SOME OF MY FAVORITE LILAC VARIETIES

- 'ADELAIDE DUNBAR' - Single, one of the few nearest to red. Plant habit tall and leggy. Produces suckers rarely if ever.
- 'AGNES SMITH' - A late hybrid, one of two whites. Erect, large panicles. Good foliage and a strong grower. Single flowers.
- 'A.M. BRAND' - Single, in the same color class as 'ADELAIDE DUNBAR' but has a more compact plant habit.
- 'AMI SCHOTT' - Double, blue, large florets which are cupped.
- 'ANDENKEN AN LUDWIG SPAETH' - Single, large slender panicles, perfection in form, a dark reddish-purple.
- 'ANABEL' - Single, pink, early bloomer. Florets cupped, a lovely variety.
- 'CHARM' - Single, pink, large florets, registered as pink. Plants I have seen were a bluish-purple.
- 'CREPUSCULE' - Single, medium clear blue with conspicuous yellow stamens. Not well known and therefore difficult to find.
- 'DECAISNE' - Single, bluish-lavender, very floriferous and a dependable bloomer.
- 'DE MIRIBEL' - Single, a dark slate-blue, a unique color.
- 'FIRMAMENT' - Single, medium blue, large florets and a good grower.
- 'GLORY' - Single, magenta, large panicles which tend to droop when wet. Not everyone cares for this characteristic.

- 'KATHERINE HAVEMEYER' - Double, a mix of white, lavender and pink. Admired by many but panicles too "bunchy".
- 'LAPLACE' - Single, dark reddish-purple, an excellent variety deserving of a wider distribution.
- 'MACROSTACHYA' - Single, light pink. A very old variety. Produces a great many suckers which may be a nuisance.
- 'MAIDEN'S BLUSH' - Single, deep rose-pink. Superior to 'LUCIE BALTET' which it closely resembles. There is, apparently, a dwarf and a tall form in distribution.
- 'MARCEAU' - Single, large florets of deep bluish purple. There is, apparently, a dwarf and a tall form in distribution.
- 'MARECHAL FOCH' - Single, early bloomer, good pink. Plant grows tall and leggy.
- 'MARIE FINON' - Single, white, slow grower with large florets and heavy, waxy foliage. An excellent variety.
- 'MASSENA' - Single, dark reddish-purple. Large, cupped flowers.
- 'FLORA' (syn. 'MAUD NOTCUTT') - Single, large florets. A tall, straggling grower.
- 'MISS CANADA' - Single, medium pink highly visible from a distance. The best pink late hybrid I have seen.
- 'MISS ELLEN WILLMOTT' - Double, white, hose-in-hose. Large, open pyramidal panicles. Plant inclined to grow tall and leggy.
- 'MRS. W.E. MARSHALL' - Single, dark reddish-purple. Probably the darkest colored variety in existence.
- 'PAUL THIRION' - Double, blend of pink and red shades and white. Florets large. A colorful and popular variety.
- 'PRIMROSE' - Single, ivory to yellow in bud. Flowers quickly change to a dirty white.

- 'PRESIDENT LINCOLN' - Single, Wedgewood-blue, small panicles. Plants will become enormous so allow plenty of space if pruning is not planned.
- 'PURPLE HEART' - Single, nearest to purple. One of the best in this class.
- 'ROMANCE' - Single, medium pink. Similar to 'PINK MIST'. A superb variety deserving of wider distribution.
- 'SENSATION' - Single, purple-red with margin of pure white around each floret. A unique variety but a tall, straggly grower.
- 'SILVER KING' - Single, pinkish-lavender, early bloomer, dependable. Very floriferous.
- 'VESTALE' - Single, white, perfection in flower and panicle formation. Slightly more white than 'FLORA' and a better plant form.
- 'VICTOR LEMOINE' - Double, blend of pink, purple and white. An unusual combination of colors. Large florets.
- 'VIOLETTA' - Double, purple, flowers cupped. A poor grower and rarely produces sucker plants.
- 'ZULU' - Single, bluish-purple, has the largest florets of any lilac when in a good location and has been fertilized. A slow grower matures at 6'-8'. Not available in the trade but deserves more attention.

\* \* \* \* \*

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION  
(Where it's at and how to get there)

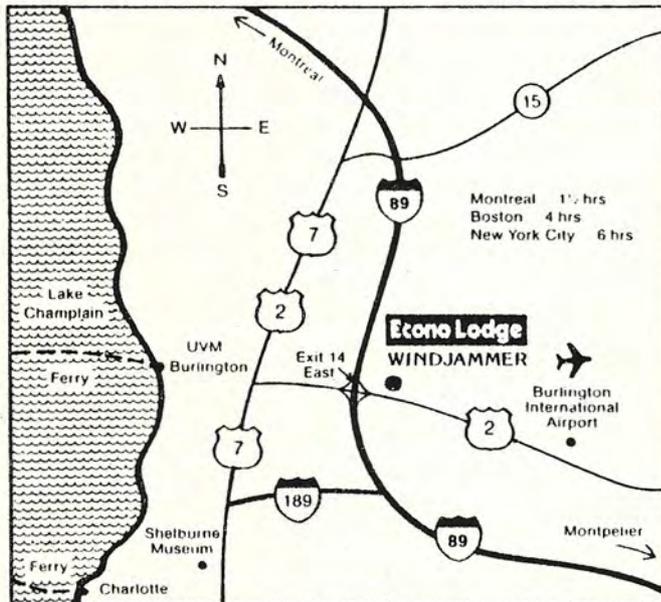
# Econo Lodge

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LITTLE-LEAVED LILACS AT BIRCHWOOD

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, NH

A neglected aspect of ILS promotion is the using of lilacs as landscape components. Instead we become wrapped up in colours, fragrances, plant forms, even disease resistance and/or minimum maintenance. But as shrubs, in landscape compositions we overlook the virtues of the less well known little-leaved lilacs. All are graceful shrubs bearing clusters of small flowers, often scented, often in profusion, never very large nor individually conspicuous, and whose foliage is neutral in colour and fine-textured. All are of Asiatic origin.

In the brief span of a dozen years or so at the turn of the present century four little-leaved lilacs were discovered in the mountains of central and northern China and adjacent Korea. These lilacs are closely related to Syringa pubescens, the type of the group and a rarely cultivated species discovered by P.Y. Kirilov near the village of Nordian in northern China some seventy years earlier. Only one species, S. microphylla, occurs over a wide range in China. Each of the others seems to have been introduced from few collections of seed gathered in quite scattered localities: SS. pubescens and meyeri in the presently known Province of Shensi, S. julianae in northwestern Hupeh, and S. patula in Korea.

At Birchwood cultivars of these four species come into bloom usually during the last week of May or the first half of June, slightly later than scheduled for this latitude owing to the moderating influence of Lake Winnepesaukee on three sides. Chenault's "daphne" lilac, S. microphylla 'SUPERBA', is the first to scent the garden with its pinkish flowers. This is a small shrub, about five feet tall, with slender arching branches. Its flower clusters are so numerous

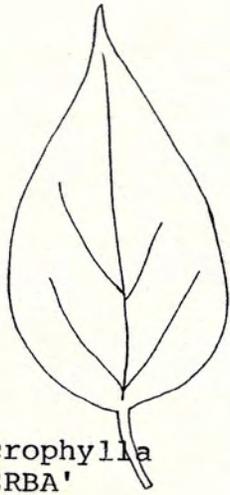
that the branches appear to droop under their weight. The compact S. meyeri 'PALIBIN' with sturdy upright branches bears a profusion of particularly pleasingly fragrant flowers which perfume the entire garden for several days and especially evenings of early June. I am growing this cultivar as a hedge three feet tall capping a terrace over Lilac Cove. The suckering habit makes for a dense wall of foliage.

The 'GEORGE EASTMAN' cultivar of the Julia lilac, S. julianae, is growing as a specimen shrub and is expected to reach six feet tall and to spread as broad with its horizontal branches. Its flowers are distinctly darker than the lilac-purple flowers of the species. Mrs. McKelvey says that its flowers are decidedly unpleasantly scented. This shrub also is prone to spread by suckers.

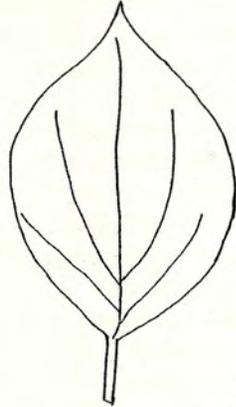
Exceedingly pleasantly scented are the flowers of the Korean little-leaved lilac, S. patula, perhaps cultivated under the name of S. velutina. This is a large, broad-spreading shrub to ten feet tall with loose clustered flowers of pale lilac almost white. I do not have the Meader cultivar 'MISS KIM' which is dwarfer or slower growing in habit.

Each of these graceful lilacs contributes to the enchantment of a garden without advertizing its lilac character. I like that and believe, as you come to know the little-leaved lilacs better, you will too.

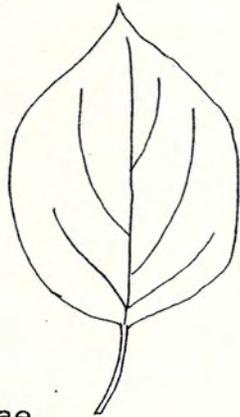
SKETCHES OF ACTUAL SIZE FOR COMPARISON



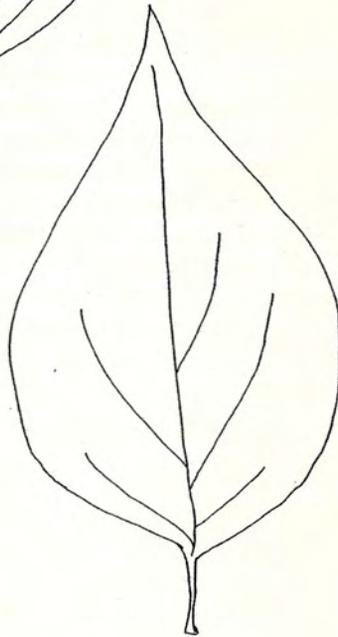
*S. microphylla*  
'SUPERBA'



*S. meyeri*  
'PALIBIN'



*S. julianae*  
'GEORGE EASTMAN'



*S. patula*

Bob Clark has been preparing for and looking forward to the 1984 meeting when he hopes that members will visit his collection at Birchwood. This will be a bonus to look ahead to when you travel to Vermont next May.

Traveller's directions for finding Birchwood.

By private car:

I-93 NORTH to exit 23 (milepost 69) marked "Washington Valley" to NH 104 EAST to US 3 (Daniel Webster HY) NORTH to junction NH 25 EAST (Meredith Village's only traffic light) one block RIGHT (opposite Gulf Sta.) 6½ miles on Neck Road (yellow median line) passing Bear Is. parking lot (Cattle Landing) 1 mile over gravel road to last driveway on LEFT opposite Harris Road, marked "Clark Private". Parking at turnaround. Wear low heel shoes. Picnic facilities on grounds.

By Common carrier:

Concord Trailways from Boston to Meredith. B-Mac Taxi (279-4440). Precision Airlines from Boston to Laconia (reservation via Eastern Airlines).

Birchwood's Lilac Collection (*Syringetum*) established 1973.

color	class	single	double
	Vulgares		
	<u>oblata</u> var. <u>dilatata</u>		
pink		Wyoming #4	
	x <u>hyacinthiflora</u> ( <u>oblata</u> x <u>vulgaris</u> )		
blue		'DR. CHADWICK'	'ANNABEL'

pink	'BOUNTIFUL'	
	'BUFFON'	
	'CHURCHILL'	
	'LAMARTINE'	
reddish	'ESTHER STALEY'	'EVANGELINE'
lilac	x <u>persica</u> ( <u>afghanica</u> x <u>laciniata</u> )	
	x <u>chinensis</u> (x <u>persica</u> x <u>vulgaris</u> )	
white	'BICOLOR' (+ correlata)	
	<u>vulgaris</u>	
white	f. alba	
	'MAUD NOTCUTT'	'EDITH CAVELL'
	'VESTALE'	'SOUVENIR D'ALICE HARDING'
violet	'DE MIRIBEL'	'CHAMPLAIN'
	'MOOD INDIGO'	'VIOLETTA'
blue	'ATHELIN WILBUR'	'MARECHAL LANNES'
	'DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER'	'OLIVIER DE SERRES'
	'MME. CHARLES SOUCHET'	
	'SILVER KING'	
	'WEDGEWOOD BLUE'	
lilac	'JACQUES CALLOT'	'LEON GAMBETTA'
	'GENERAL SHERMAN'	'MONTAIGNE'
	'MACROSTACHYA'	
	'MAIDEN'S BLUSH'	
	'PROFESSOR R.B. CLARK' °	
reddish	'CAROLINE FOLEY'	'PAUL THIRION'
	'DIANE'	
	'GLORY'	
	'JAMES STUART'	
	'LADY LINDSAY'	
	'MARECHAL FOCH'	
	'RUHM VON HORSTENSTEIN'	
purple	'AGINCOURT BEAUTY'	'ADELAIDE DUNBAR'
	'ALBERT F. HOLDEN'	
	'FRANK PATERSON'	
	'MONGE'	
	'SARAH SANDS'	
	'SENSATION'	

Pubescentes

julianae

reddish 'GEORGE EASTMAN'

meyeri

lilac 'PALIBIN'

microphylla

lilac 'SUPERBA'

lilac patula

pink potanini

lilac pubescens

Villosae

pink reflexa

x prestoniae (reflexa x villosa)

reddish 'HIAWATHA'

x josiflexa (josikaea x reflexa)

UNH seedlings 1972

UNH seedlings 1977

x nanceiana ( x henryi x sweginzowii)

purple 'RUTILANT'

Ligustrina

pekinensis

reticulata (Coles Selection)

LILAC SEED EXCHANGE, 1984

Last year one member submitted seeds. Again this year only only one member took the time to collect and send seeds. Under these conditions it seems hardly worthwhile to continue the Seed Exchange.

What are your thoughts on the matter? If you feel strongly, one way or the other, please share your thoughts with members at the 1984 Convention.

The seed list this year is very brief. However, if any member is interested, please send list of seeds desired, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail to:

Roger F. Luce  
R.F.D. #1, Box 1126  
Hampden, ME 04444

SEEDS AVAILABLE:

- S. reticulata (1982) (Nancy Emerson, Delhi, NY)
- S. laciniata (1983) (Fred Carlson, Anaheim, CA)
- S. reticulata (1983)
- S. pekinensis (1982)
- S. vulgaris 'VESTALE' (1983) (Roger Luce, Newburgh, ME)

REGISTRATION FORM

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION

1984

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
last first (Mr. Mrs. Ms. other)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Please make my reservation at the Econo Lodge for:

\$35 double \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 single \_\_\_\_\_

Circle: Thurs eve, Friday Saturday Sunday

Total payment enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Balance later \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$70.00 registration fee enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Payment on arrival \_\_\_\_\_

Please send information on limo service \_\_\_\_\_

airport service \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration to Convention Chairman:

Make cheque payable to International Lilac Society

Thomas N. Chieppo  
Box 164  
New Haven, Conn.  
06501-0164

Registration deadline:  
May 3, 1984.

## HOW TO START YOUR OWN HORTICULTURE BUSINESS I

This book will assist people to create and develop a horticulture business at home-Landscape Maintenance, Lawn Renovation, Landscaping Services and Home Nursery. The book describes opportunities for home employment either as part-time or full-time business ventures.

Informational charts, tables, examples of business forms are presented throughout. Each chapter contains continuous learning suggestions to help the novice and the experienced become more knowledgeable in operating a horticulture venture.

The Setting Up Your Business Section offers suggestions for setting up, developing, and cultivating a home horticulture business.

A directory of horticulture organization/associations and suppliers of nursery stock/supplies are included in the Horticulture Section. Satis. Guar. Send \$4.95 (WA res. 40¢ Tax) to BOTANY BOOKS, 1518 Hayward Ave., Bremerton, WA. 98310.