



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XII, No. 10, October, 1986

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



Fall is here and, as you can see, leaves have fallen out of the Newsletter. Unless we get a volunteer to be editor, you are stuck with the reduced size until next summer.

On a happier note, this issue is composed almost entirely of material sent to the editor by Society members. I think that this is great! if there is something else that you would like to see in the Newsletter, why don't you send it in for the November issue? To quote our resident philosopher, Charles Holetich, "Those willing and able, no matter how few, are the main power of the Society and will most likely reincarnate in the form of a lilac cultivar, each according to his/her own deeds." Who could ask for more? I think I'll ask to be a deep purple.



3 Last month we reprinted a note about lilacs and lawns; this month we have one about lilacs and peonies. The article is by Greta Kessenick who is editor of the American Peony Society Bulletin. Don Wedge sent it to me and therefore I had to honor his request to remove the sentences which referred to him as Mr. Lilac and told of his lilacs and peonies in Minnesota. Here, then, is the abridged article.

#### Protection of Peonies in Winter and Spring

Mulching is very important where there is danger of heaving during the winter and spring months. All new planting should have a light mulch of straw, wild hay, or some coarse material until the plant is firmly set.

Remove in the spring - most heaving is done in the early spring by alternate thawing and freezing.

This spring, about the last of April, the peonies were up about 6-8 inches and the temperatures dropped to the low 20's. I had wrapped about 50 peony plants with burlap (gunny sacks) for protection as the damage from such weather could be devastating. At the S.W. end of one particular section there are two large lilac bushes. They have always served as a protection of the peonies from a wind or storm coming from that direction. That particular night, the hard freeze came and those lilacs saved two rows, and some plants on either side. Those beautiful lilacs not only produce gorgeous flowers but serve a definite need.

Lilacs and peonies go together. On an early spring morning when the lilacs are in bloom and the hybrid peonies are opening, the fragrance is unforgettable.

A row of lilacs at the old Brand Peony Farm is still there, and has been blooming every spring for many years. They were used as a wind-break as well as for beauty.



## SHOULD YOU REMOVE LILAC SEED PODS?

Here's another bit of information in the continuing argument as to whether you should dead head (remove seed pods) your lilacs. The Bicklehaupt's (Frances and Bob) sent this letter to Bob Clark.

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Dear Mr. Clark:

We thought that our time study of dead heading lilacs might be a worthwhile news item for the Newsletter.

We have a collection of 48 lilacs as listed in the December '84 Newsletter. Forty of these are mature plants, 8 to 10 years old which we keep at 6 to 8 feet in height and are from 4 to 12 feet in diameter. These 40 plants, we dead headed from June 8 to June 30, '85, in a total of 53.5 person hours. We used Felco pruners.

The other 8 plants, acquired in the last 2 years, are 2 to 3 feet tall and required only a few minutes.

We are glad we made this time study so we can encourage visitors to the Arboretum to dead head their lilacs - for the plants' health and general appearance the rest of the year. Perhaps other Lilac Society members would want to use this study to encourage those in their areas to make this same effort.

Sincerely,

F. K. and R. E. Bicklehaupt



16th ANNUAL CONVENTION  
May 28-30, 1987  
Denver, Colorado, USA

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Things are moving ahead for the 16th Annual Convention of the ILS and we are looking forward to the members visit to the 'Mile Hi' city of Denver, Colorado.

We have been lining up your program and our main speaker will be Mr. Peter Green, from the famous Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, England. His program will feature Hardy Oleaceae with special reference to Syringa. Dr. Owen Rogers has titled his presentation "Research you can take home" which gives us great possibilities to interpret. Dr. James Feucht and Dr. Whitney Cranshaw of Colorado State University will combine to give us some thoughts on Soil problems and Entomology of Lilacs. For your own ideas we are having a panel and already Mr. Winfried Martin and Mr. Max Peterson have consented to be your experts. Knowing panels, anything may crop up so be sure to come along with all your questions to make it take off.

There will be some visiting to the local area and time at Denver Botanic Gardens to view their moderate collection, which is strong with species. The rest of the garden will be coming into its summer glory with the very fine rock alpine garden at its best.

We are looking forward to you all visiting Colorado and we have already reserved fine meeting space at the Regency Hotel near to downtown Denver and convenient to the airport.





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Vacant

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Roger Vick, Curator, Devonian Botanic Garden, University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9

**Region 11** - Members at Large  
Vacant.

## LILAC TIME

NOW IS THE TIME TO START THAT LILAC HEDGE  
OR FENCEROW YOU'VE ALWAYS PROMISED YOU  
WOULD PLANT SOMEDAY.

OUR 8-12 INCH COMMON LILAC (SYRINGA VULGARIS)

2 YEAR SEEDLINGS ARE SELLING FOR \$0.42 EACH

OR THE TALLER 12-16 INCH ARE ONLY \$0.48 EACH.

THEY CAN BE PLANTED THIS FALL IF YOU MULCH THEM

OR WE CAN SHIP THEM NEXT SPRING,WHICH EVER YOU  
PREFER.

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WITH YOUR ORDER.

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YOU DID.

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