



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XII, No. 6, June, 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*.

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.

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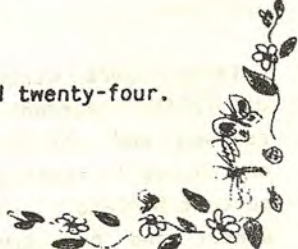
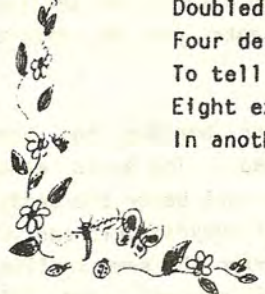
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Sustaining	20.00
Institutional/Commercial	25.00
Life	150.00

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ILS MEMBERS, WE NEED YOU

Ten little members standing in a line,
One disliked a former president, then there were nine.
Nine ambitious members offered to work late,
One forgot the meeting, then there were eight.
Eight energetic members had ideas good as Heaven,
One lost enthusiasm, then there were seven.
Seven loyal members got into a fix,
They quarreled over our programs, then there were six.
Six members remained, with spirit and drive,
One sold his place, and then there were five.
Five steadfast members wished there were more,
One became indifferent, then there were four.
Four willing members, who never disagree,
One thought he wasn't needed, and then there were three.
Three eager members, what did they do?
One got discouraged, then there were two.
Two lonely members, our rhyme is nearly done,
One took a job, and then there was one.
One faithful member was feeling rather blue,
Met with a neighbor, then there were two.
Two earnest members, each enrolled one more,
Doubled their number, then there were four.
Four determined members, just couldn't wait,
To tell another, then there were eight.
Eight excited members, signed up 16 more,
In another 6 verses there will be one thousand twenty-four.



Etiolation is the induction of new tissue in the absence of light. Tissue that has been etiolated often roots easier than green tissue and so has been used in propagation for a long time. Etiolation fell into disuse when rooting hormones were discovered but has recently been "rediscovered" for several hard to propagate plants such as the lilac.

As part of the work supported by a scholarship grant from the International Lilac Society, we explored the effect of etiolation on the rooting of 'Charles Joly' at the University of New Hampshire.

Because of the time frame of the school year, the plants were forced into growth during February and March. They were brought into a refrigerated storage room in December for the required cold period prior to forcing. In mid-February they were transferred to a sunny greenhouse with a minimum night temperature of 65 degrees F. At this time the plants to be etiolated were put on portable carts and completely covered with black plastic to provide nearly 100 percent shade. It is important to shade the plants before bud break to insure proper etiolation as opposed to blanching, which is the process of depriving already green tissue of light to stop photosynthesis. The shaded carts were put in the greenhouse for convenience of watering.

After ten days of etiolation, the shoots were three to five inches long. The shoots were banded near the base with black plastic fastened with tape. Using a combination of plastic and tape was a tedious job that would probably be made easier by using black tape or aluminum foil. The north-facing side of black plastic shading was then removed to allow acclimation of the plants to light and gradual greening of the etiolated tissue, except the banded area. The shading was completely removed over a one week period and the plants put in direct sunlight.

Cuttings were struck at two, four, and six weeks after banding for the etiolation treatment and after budbreak for the non-etiolated. The bands were removed and cuttings taken from the etiolated stock plants just below the bands and dipped in rooting powder consisting of 0.8 percent indolebutyric acid and 10 percent Benlate. The non-etiolated cuttings were treated with the same rooting powder and both types were stuck in a rooting medium of 25 percent sand, 25 percent perlite, and 50 percent vermiculite. All cuttings were placed under a standard mist system.

Rooting percentages of 80, 88, and 73 were achieved for the cuttings taken from the etiolated stock plants two, four, and six weeks after banding respectively. In the same order of striking dates, the non-etiolated cuttings rooted at 50, 55, and 0 percent. (Cuttings taken from the non-etiolated stock plants six weeks after budbreak had not yet rooted at the time of this report, seven weeks after striking. It is possible that some may root, although they are in poor condition).

Differences between the two treatments for cuttings were not limited to objective rooting percentages. Cuttings taken from the etiolated stock plants rooted in three to four weeks and were much more vigorous compared to seven to eight weeks for those from non-etiolated stock plants. They were also much stronger plants when rooted. This could have been due to the etiolation treatment but more likely was a result of the non-etiolated cuttings taking longer to root.

Editor's Note: The etiolation experiments undertaken by David was very successful. However, two things must be kept in mind. (1) 'Charles Joly' is not one of the more difficult cultivars to root. We chose it deliberately to be sure of at least some response to the treatments. (2) The experiments were conducted on plants grown in a greenhouse. As such, they should be repeatable in your greenhouse but we don't know how they would work on plants outdoors. This will be a subject of research at Durham next spring and, if all goes well, a report to the Society next year.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN INTERNSHIPS

Spring and summer internships in practical horticulture and teaching are being offered by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. For information, write to Internships, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 1000 Washington Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225.

FRIENDS OF THE TREES 1986 YEARBOOK

The new Yearbook was supposed to be published in March, though we haven't seen a copy yet. If it's anything like the past ones (and we're sure it is), it is definitely a bargain for only \$4 postpaid. You can expect detailed articles on tree and shrub propagation, uses of native plants, and land reclamation, as well as lists of seed exchanges, nurseries, and reforestation groups. Order from Friends of the Trees, P.O. Box 1466, Chelan, WA 98816.

THE "NEW" GARDENERS

Bruce Butterfield, director of research at the National Gardening Association, recently spoke on the changing characteristics of American home gardeners at the 25th Garden Seed Industry Conference in Atlanta. According to Butterfield, who quoted some results from the 1985 National Gardening Survey conducted by the Gallup organization for NGA, the typical amateur grower is looking first and foremost for quicker, easier ways to garden. The average garden size reflects this concern with low-maintenance: in 1982, it was 600 square feet, but it dropped to 300 square feet by 1985. Butterfield noted three main types of lawn and garden consumers: "The Landscape Gardener" spends about \$300 per year, on average, for gardening and lawn care (this educated, affluent group accounts for about half of retail lawn and garden sales); "The Typical Home Gardener" spends about \$200 per year, on average, for gardening and lawn care (this group, which appears to be particularly interested in techniques for easy growing, accounts for about 40% of retail lawn and garden sales); and "The Just Cut the Grass" type spends relatively little for gardening and lawn care.

Why do people garden? Recent National Gardening Surveys have identified five major reasons: fresh vegetables, high quality, good tasting food, fun and enjoyment, canning and freezing opportunities, and economy.

Reference: Anonymous, "Bringing Gardening Up-to-Date with the 1980's", Seed World 124(3), March 1986, 17-18. (Scranton Gillette Communications Inc., 380 Northwest Hwy., Des Plaines, IL 60016).

Interested in attracting birds and other wildlife to your yard? If you make a concerted effort to provide appropriate habitat for wildlife around your home, you can participate in the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat Program. After you qualify, you'll receive a nice certificate. For more information, write to NWF, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

AMMONIA FOR GROUNDHOGS?

Well, not exactly "for" groundhogs (a.k.a. woodchucks) -- to get rid of them. A Minnesota gardener suggests in a recent issue of the Troy-Bilt Owner News that a small ammonia-soaked sponge placed into a groundhog hole (with that hole and all of the other holes connecting to the same borrow plugged up) will quickly cause an abandonment of the burrow. Best time to do this is in the early spring. Let us know how it works for you if you try it.

Reference: Arthur C. Bryant, "Woodchuck Removal," Troy-Bilt Owner News 12 (2), Spring 1986, 7. (Garden Way Manufacturing Company, 102nd St. and 9th Ave., Troy, NY 12180).

BEYOND "SUPERSWEET" CORN: 'SWEETIE'

Just when we thought that "Supersweet" hybrid corn cultivars were the "wave of the future," along comes a press release from Sunseeds (1931 W. 78th St., Suite 229. Eden Prairie, MN 55344), announcing the "Improved Supersweet" cultivar 'Sweetie.' Not only does 'Sweetie' taste sweeter than regular "supersweets" (by 20%, according to Sunseeds), but it has 30% fewer calories, making it the first -- get this -- "Lite" sweet corn. The genetics of 'Sweetie' are patent-pending; its parents both have the "sh₂" gene for supersweetness, plus one parent also has the "sugary" gene, for even more sweetness.

Write to Sunseeds for information about availability of 'Sweetie' in your area.

PHOTOGRAPH YOUR LANDSCAPE FOR POSTERITY

Or, if not for posterity, at least for next year... The Dawes Arboretum Newsletter (7770 Jacksontown Rd., S.E., Neward, OH 43055) reminds us that it is a very good idea to take pictures (from multiple angles) of our valuable trees and shrubs every few years, to use as evidence in case of storm or accident insurance claims.

FROM THE LILAC FARM

LILAC mixture

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