



Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XIII, No. 10, October, 1987

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.

President: Orville Steward,
P.O. Box 33,
Plymouth, VT 05056

Secretary: Walter W. Oakes*
Box 315, Rumford, Maine, 04276

Treasurer: Walter E. Eickhorst,
140 W. Douglas Ave., Naperville, IL 60540

Editor: Pro tem. Dr. Owen M. Rogers,
University of New Hampshire,
Durham, NH 03824

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY,
William A. Utley, Ex. Vice-Pres.,
Grape Hill Farm, Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	\$ 10.00
Family	12.50
Sustaining	20.00
Institutional/Commercial	25.00
Life	150.00

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



In Memory

Benjamin Coleman Blackburn
1908-1987

Horticulture, and all plant lovers, lost a friend and towering figure on July 7, 1987.

Dr. Benjamin Coleman Blackburn (known to many as Dr. Blackburn and to his friends as "Ben") died at the Willowood Arboretum in Gladstone, New Jersey.

His entire life was devoted to plants. Born into a family of apple growers in Ridgeway, N.Y., he graduated from Cornell University in 1929. He was a classmate and life-long friend of Bernard Harkness, I.L.S.'s second president.

Dr. Blackburn taught in Rutgers and Drew Universities. He authored several books including "Trees and Shrubs in Eastern United States" and "Your Garden This Week," the former being a vegetative key to flora.

He was known from coast to coast through his popular talks on the Radio Garden Club of WOR and the Mutual Network.

In 1985 he received the Medal of Honor Award from the Garden Club of America.

In 1987 he received an honorary doctorate from St. Lawrence University. He was a member of Alpha Zeta, Sigma Pi and Sigma Xi, honorary societies.

At the time of his death he was Director of the Willowood Arboretum where 3,500 taxa are to be found growing -- lilacs, of course, are included.

"I see men as trees walking" Mark VIII-24





Why Lilacs Don't Bloom

Ronald Taven

Perhaps, the most frequently asked question about lilacs is -- "How do you make them bloom?" All lilacs should bloom, there are none that are "blind." The common or old fashioned lilac usually takes longer than some of the French hybrids. Some of these will bloom when they are three or four feet in height. It is sometimes very difficult to determine just why a particular plant will fail to set flower buds or set them and then not develop into flowers. One or more of the following conditions or situation may be a reason a lilac plant will not bloom.

1. Too shady a location. Lilacs must be grown in a sunny exposure.
2. Competition with adjacent shrub and tree roots.
3. The plants were planted too deep so the roots are lacking sufficient soil, air.
4. Occasionally, some people prune them in midsummer, fall or early spring and cut off all the flower buds.
5. Sometimes the soil is too rich or too much nitrogen fertilizer is used and vegetative growth is produced at the expense of the development of flower buds. If this is the case, a slight root pruning in early summer may encourage flower bud formation. This is done by inserting a spade slightly within the outside limit of the branches at various places in a circle around the plant approximately one-third of the roots will be severed.
6. In some cases, the plants do not have a sufficient amount of phosphorus available. If this is suspected, a shallow trench can be dug around the plant and a cupful of superphosphate or 2 cups of bonemeal for every three running feet of the ditch can be mixed with the excavated soil. This soil with the phosphate is then returned to the ditch.
7. Too many suckers at the base of the plant will limit the number of blooms. Most of the over-vigorous suckers should be pruned to the ground.
8. A heavy infestation of oyster shell scale will weaken the plant so that it is not vigorous enough to bloom. The crawler stage of this insect can be killed with malathion plus DDT. Two or three applications in late May and June should be applied.
9. If lilacs set the buds, but then fail to bloom the following spring, chances are this was due to a severe drought in late summer.



How to keep cut flowers as long as possible?
LILACS:



1. Before putting in the vase cut the stalks with a long slanting gash and that slanting gash cleave it in two.
2. Give fresh water every two days and again cut slantingly (in very hot weather every day fresh water).
3. Take the vase quite so high that the water is about the middle of the stalk, so not only the incised wound.
4. PUT IN THE WATER POKON ARTIFICIAL MANURE, a half teaspoon in one quart of water.
5. If the flowers will for all that droop soon, roll the clusters in paper and put them like this for at least six hours in a bucket filled with water. Cut again the stalks under water.
6. In winter don't use icy-cold water and don't place the flowers too cool. Not in the sun, also not near the heating.

Following abovementioned prevents disappointment of you and groundless complaint against your florist by delivered good quality.

Cut flowers of a good flower-shop have had a professional treatment before.

Desire POKON artificial manure because:

POKON dissolves immediately and totally by the powder form and the special quality.

(Advertisement for "Pokon" Artificial Manure containing some good suggestions for the care of cut flowers).
Printed in Holland.

International Lilac Society, Inc.

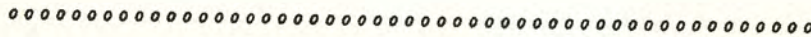
Walter W. Oakes, Secretary
Box 315, Rumford, Maine 04276
Phone 1-207-562-7153



The Society has republished Vols. 1 & 2, and 3 and 4 in two editions of the Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac information. Both editions are 8½ x 11, soft-cover. Price \$22.50 ea., 18.50 to members.

These books are the collection of a noted nurseryman beginning in the early 1920s of information from newspaper, correspondence, magazines and other sources. They are valuable reference works for anyone interested in lilacs.

Orders should be sent to the address above. Prompt shipment.



L I L A C P O S T E R S

Excellent color posters 19" x 24" in size of *Syringa vulgaris* 'SENSATION' (floret single purple with white border) and *Syringa vulgaris* 'ROCHESTER' (single white with 5 petals in corolla) available at cost of \$12 Canadian or \$10 U.S. The price includes both posters, postage and handling. Make cheque payable to International Lilac Society and mail it to International Lilac Society, c/o Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8.