



# Lilac Newsletter

Vol. XIV, No. 3, March, 1988

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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Single annual . . . . .	\$ 10.00
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\*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary



4  
COMMERCIAL DEER REPELLENTS EVALUATED. Suburban landscapes and gardens in the East, in the West, and many places in between are at the mercy of browsing deer. Edibles and ornamentals are at risk - and the deer sometimes seem to prefer greatly expensive cultivars! Because the sure technique for deer control, tall fencing, is so expensive, there is a ready market for chemical deer repellents. But how well do these concoctions work? And how cheap are they? Recent experiments in Connecticut using Japanese yew (*Taxus cuspidata*), a favorite deer browse, as "bait," provide some answers. The trials were conducted in an area with many deer; cost estimates do not include labor. All commercial repellents were used according to label directions.

Magic Circle<sup>tm</sup> Deer Repellent (active ingredient, bone tar oil) on burlap strips reduced browse damage significantly in three out of seven trials. Estimated cost per acre: \$30.

Big Game Repellent<sup>tm</sup> (also known as Deer Away<sup>tm</sup>; active ingredient, putrescent whole egg solids) reduced browse damage significantly in three out of six trials. Estimated cost per acre: \$360.

Hinder<sup>tm</sup> (active ingredient, ammonium soaps of fatty acids), diluted one part in seven parts water, reduced browse damage significantly in both of two trials. Estimated cost per acre: \$27.

Miller Hot Sauce<sup>tm</sup> (active ingredient, hot pepper extract), highly diluted with water, reduced browse damage significantly in two of five trials. Estimated cost per acre: \$10.

Thiram reduced browse damage significantly in two of five trials. Estimated cost per acre: \$200.

In short, the effectiveness of these products appears quite limited, at least under this specific set of test conditions, judged by the experimenter as extreme; Hinder had the best performance-to-cost ratio. How about the old favorite, human hair placed in mesh bags? In the Connecticut experiments, it reduced browse damage significantly in two out of seven trials. Another repellent, deodorant soap (such as Dial<sup>tm</sup>), wasn't tested in Connecticut, but is being used with moderate to good success in several commercial mid-western orchards. Test various repellents at your own location before using particular products on a large scale. Deer preferences and dislikes can vary greatly from place to place and over time.

Source: J.L. Byford, "Combat Wildlife Damage with Commonsense Control Methods." *American Nurseryman* 165(8), April 15, 1987, 91-94, 96, 98, 100. (American Nurseryman Publishing Co., 111 N. Canal St., Suite 545, Chicago, IL 60606.)

5 NATURE TALKS FROM DOWN ON THE FARM\*

by  
Stacey W. Cole

The purple lilac is one of the loveliest and most fragrant of all our flowering shrubs. In 1919, the New Hampshire General Court passed RSA 3:5 - "State Flower. The purple lilac *Syringa Vulgaris*, is the state flower of New Hampshire."

Not long ago, I heard from my good friend of many years, Martin L. Mitchell, curriculum supervisor for Agricultural Education in New Hampshire. Martin wrote in part:

"When your name was mentioned at the Lilac Commission meeting yesterday morning, I recalled an original intention and immediately said I would be writing to you.

"The Governor's Commission on Lilacs had an agenda item on feeding birds suet hung in lilac bushes. Almost immediately the discussion included that seeds dropped from lilacs helped ground feeding birds and that, indeed, feeders could easily be placed in or around lilac bushes. It was added that lilacs provide a cover for certain birds less likely to feed in open spaces."

\* \* \* \* \*

Martin's suggestion of feeding birds near lilac shrubs is an excellent one. We have a purple lilac hedge that borders our side lawn, also one large white lilac bush growing beside our greenhouse potting shed. Although the lilacs are some distance from our feeding area, I find they are used as a safe harbor by many birds the year around. And in summer I have watched cottontail rabbits, red and gray squirrels and even a stray woodchuck sneak beneath the dense lilac foliage when on their way from one place to another.

Every summer, for as long as I can remember, we have had a pair of gray catbirds nest in our lilac hedge and it is not until the leaves have dropped in late fall that their hide-a-way is revealed.

\*Partial reprint from the Manchester Union Leader, Manchester, NH

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## LILACS YOU'LL LOVE

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Not bare root, they remain in high gear.  
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'Less you tell, they won't know they left here!*

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