



Lilac Newsletter

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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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FALL PLANTING OF LILACS



Fall planting can be recommended in any area that does not have a severe winter. By August, the top of the plant has completed its growth and produced winter buds which are dormant. The roots, however, can continue to grow until the ground freezes.

The biggest problem in the fall planting is the possibility of drought conditions. Dry soil will delay root generation and, if severe enough, can kill the plant. A reliable water source for the new plant and a reliable waterer so that it is not water stressed will prevent the problem and go a long way toward making a fall planting successful.

In New England the time from 15 August to 1 September is best because there is still a long period for root growth. Later plantings, up to 15 October, can be considered but the later the plantings, the greater the chance for winter kill if the winter is severe or has a thin snow cover. A mulch of wood chips or bark, 3" thick will protect the plants in the winter and retain soil moisture in the summer. Mulch retards the growth of weeds and grass but still allows the lilac plant to sprout.

Whether one is moving a lilac from place to place or buying a new balled and burlaped or container grown plant, the procedure for planting is the same as for spring planting. Use top quality plants, dig a hole wide enough to accommodate the spread of the roots and match the soil in the hole with surrounding soil so that the roots can grow without hinderance. The only difference from spring planting is that real care must be taken to prevent drying during or after planting. A newly acquired plant left in a closed car in a parking lot can be cooked as quickly as the family pet. Also, a plant dug from one location and left unplanted in the hot sun can suffer severe root damage from dryness in a matter of hours. Even after planting, water should be considered on a regular basis whenever natural rain is inadequate until November.

Many people like to plant in the early fall. They are not as busy as in the spring and frequently the weather is much nicer for outdoor activities. It is also a time when plants still have their leaves and the effect of a newly set plant can be seen immediately.

Lilacs in Southern California
Joel Margaretten
Leona Valley California

As you know, weather is the biggest factor in the difference between growing lilacs in different areas. For example, we get better results propagating from our own cuttings and cions than those from other areas. Because there is variety of soils in the Park we have to vary the amendments to take into account water penetration, minerals, clay percentage and particle makeup. From a weather standpoint we are dry and sunny all summer and get extremes of rainfall in the winter. Our temperatures vary in the extreme as well, with lows of -16F to +32F with no snow or heavy snow. I have seen highs in December of 90 to 100F but the average is in the 60's. Our lilacs never go completely dormant but lose their leaves because I take the water away in the middle of August until March when I start irrigating. There is some stem growth, minus leaves during the winter, but the maximum growth comes between March and May.

Normal florescence starts in the middle of April with the hyacinthifloras and extends to the middle of May for the late lilacs. They peak one week after bud opening. Lilacs are fairly drought tolerant as there are areas in California nearby that are never irrigated and they survive and flower. This area has mini U.S.D.A. climate zones from 1-24, some extremes adjacent dependent on altitude, wind currents, latitude and longitude. California is a big state. Remember the lowest spot in the country is Death Valley--below sea level, with temperatures from -20F to +140F. The highest area in the High Sierras with temps of -32F to +100F. Even the coast has its extremes with the Sierra Madre chain to diversify the weather and temperature.

Leona Valley is 80 miles north of Los Angeles and inland; surrounded by the Tehachapi Mts north and west, and the San Gabriel and San Bernardino chains south and east. The Mojave desert is over the hill just 12 miles away. It is Mediteranean area with exceptions. Our lilacs have no diseases because of our weather. Our average yearly sunlight is 350 days, precipitation is 10". All lilacs are under drip

irrigation from 25 springs and 5 wells. Any losses we have had were due to gophers, squirrels, rabbits and of course, cattle.

There are also 20 acres of my own lilacs that I have crossed. So far I have registered the following:

Doctor Fred Margaretten
 Ray Halward
 Leona Valley
 Cussie
 Hope Heller
 Leila Romer
 City of Palmdale
 William Emerson
 Walter Oakes
 Polly Haganan
 Ella Emanuel
 Theo Holetich
 Donald Egolf
 John Wister
 Elda Beltran
 Lila Emanuel
 Don Wedge
 Ed Frolich
 George Emanuel

Mrs. Eleonor Roosevelt
 Selma Margaretten
 Mrs. Katherine Margaretten
 Mrs. Regina Margaretten
 City of Lancaster
 Pres. Ronald Reagan
 Solomon Margaretten
 Fr. John Fiala
 Blanca Beltran
 Angel
 Reva Ballreich
 Charles Holetich
 Pepper Salt
 Mrs. T.V. Margaretten
 Mrs. Nancy Reagan

There will be others in the future as soon as I can get the time to do the paper work and photography on them. Selection is a time consuming process.



Cold Hardy Lilacs

Editor's Note: The following note was adapted from Horticultural Abstracts 1988 Vol. 58 No. 7 Pg 484. The original (in Russian) tells of some of the hardiest lilacs in Siberia although I cannot find 'Gizo' and 'Altaiskaya Rozovaya' on any of our lists. Perhaps they are new introductions.

The results of long-term studies at Barnaul (south of Novosibirsk) on the character of winter injury and associated flowering frequency in many cultivars are reported in a paper by Z.I. Luchnik entitled "Introduction of lilac cultivars in the Altai region" published in the Byulleten Galvnogo Botanicheskogo Sada (1987) No 145, 21-27 NII Sadovodstva Sibiri, Barnaul, USSR.

In the region lilac cultivars can only be grown on their own roots to allow for regeneration after top growth is killed by frost. Cultivars were classified into three groups according to their degree of frost resistance. Group I with the most resistant wood and flower buds was comprised of the cultivars 'Mont Blanc,' 'Ogni Donbassa,' 'Pamyat o S.M. Kirove,' 'Mne Jules Finger,' 'President Loubet,' 'Lucie Baltet,' 'Gizo' and 'Altaiskaya Rozovaya.'

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