

LILACS

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*LILACIA PARK
LOMBARD, ILLINOIS*

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of the International Lilac Society

*IN THIS
ISSUE:*

Convention Program

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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.

Published March, 1991

*The Spring Number of LILACS is
Respectfully Dedicated to the Memory of
Dr. John P. Rankin*



To the Memory of . . .

DR. JOHN P. RANKIN whose centenary a grateful Society celebrates this year with this unpublished portrait by W.K. Backrack from Fr. Fiala's collection. Its autograph reads, "JPR Balto Xmas 1916 (Suit sent back when I left in May 1917 for France)."

How this photograph came into Fr. Fiala's possession is not presently known. What is known is that Dr. Rankin practiced medicine at Elyria, Ohio, where he had a small acreage devoted to lilacs and roses. When, after a prolonged illness, he died in his seventy-seventh year, his legacy would have been left to a lilac society. But no such organization existed for him to bequeath his estate. Thus it was one of the factors which contributed to bring about the founding of the International Lilac Society twenty years ago.

Dr. Rankin raised many seedling lilacs of which some thirty he named often in honor of close friends unknown in horticultural circles. Fr. Fiala in "Lilacs, The Genus *Syringa*" (p.208) mentions five as being the best: White Lace, Dove, Lewis Maddock, Pinkie and the fifth Edith Braun the best of the best. Only a few of the Rankin lilacs found their way into gardens beyond Ohio; however, the following gardens do contain choice Rankin cultivars: Claire Short of Elyria, Falconskeape at Medina, Pauline Fiala's at Spencer, Ohio; Highland Botannical Park at Rochester, and Grape Hill Gardens at Clyde, New York, and Birchwood of Meredith, New Hampshire.

Herewith a complete listing of Rankin lilac cultivars:

d — Indicates Double Flowering

White:

Edna Dunham
Geraldine Smith
Helen Palagge
Inez
d-Jennie C. Jones
Long Fellow
White Lace

Violet:

d-Bertha Dunham
d-Dove
d-Jane Smith

Lilac:

Alice Stofer
d-Esta
Hazel Oppen
Jack Smith
d-Jane
Margaret Oppen
Nina Baker
Pauline Beck
Ralph
Robert Dunham
d-Two Star General
d-Sobra

Pink:

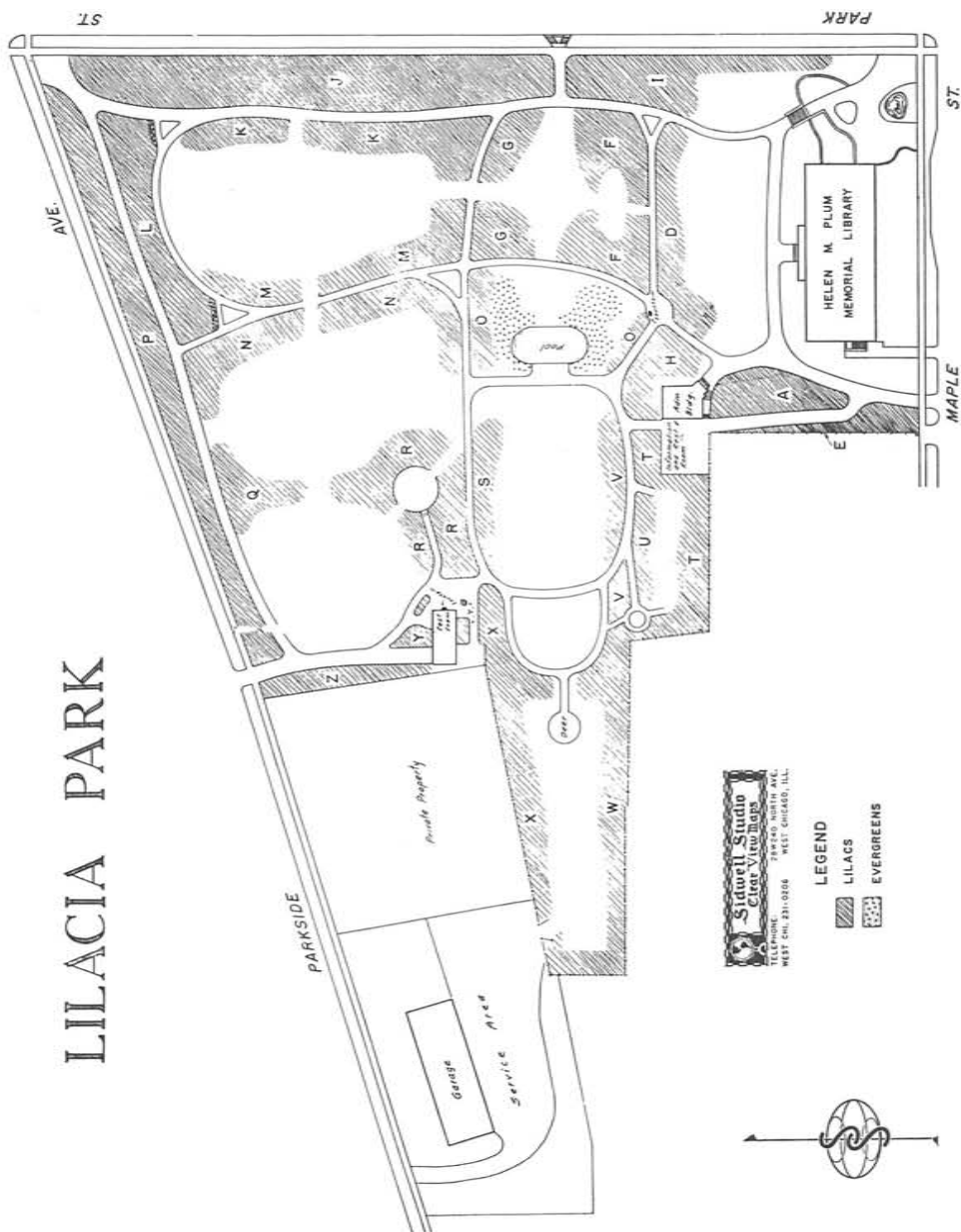
d-Betty Oppen
d-James Maddox
Lewis Maddock
Pink Bluet
Pinkie
Pinkinsun

Reddish:

Caroline Foley
Edith Braun

It's Lilac Time in Lombard

LILACIA PARK



It's Lilac Time in Lombard

Col. William R. Plum graduated from Yale Law School in 1867. He married Helen Maria Williams and came west to establish his home.

The Plums were fond of travel and on one of their trips abroad they visited the famous Lemoine Lilac Gardens in Nancy, France. They brought back two lilacs: the beautiful, pure white Mme. Casimir Perier and the lovely double, light purple Michael Buchner. Thus the world famous Lilacia Park and its collection of French Lilacs had its beginning.

With the passing of the years the Plums added variety after variety to their collection and upon his death, in 1927, Col. Plum left the entire property to the Village of Lombard — the residence to serve as a Library in memory of his wife — the grounds to serve as a public park.

Subsequently some five acres were added to the original two and a half acres, new varieties of lilacs added and the tract was landscaped to give it its present appearance.

Today, some fifteen hundred lilacs in approximately three hundred varieties comprise one of the world's finest public collections of lilacs. These, together with some forty thousand tulips in fifty varieties and many colorful pansies, form a matchless floral display visited yearly by tens of thousands of people from all states in the union and from many foreign countries.



Col. William R. Plum
Among his lilacs in the 1920s
Died April 28, 1927

Twentieth Annual Meeting

International Lilac Society

May 9, 10, 11 -- 1991

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, MAY 9:

5:00-11 p.m. Registration, Holiday Inn Glen Ellyn
7:30-10 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
7:30 p.m.-Midnight Hospitality Suite

FRIDAY, MAY 10:

7:00 a.m. Regional Vice-Presidents' Breakfast
8:30-10:30 a.m. Tour of Lilacia Park
10:30 a.m.-Noon Reception for I.L.S. provided by Lombard Garden
Club at 1st Church and Tour of Historical Society
12:00 Noon-1:00 p.m. Luncheon at Plum Library
1:00-2:00 p.m. Annual Meeting, Plum Library Auditorium
2:30 p.m. Bus leaves for Morton Arboretum
3:00-4:30 p.m. Tour of Arboretum Lilac Collection
5:00 p.m. Bus Returns to Hotel
6:30-7:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour/Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. President's Dinner/Holiday Inn
8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker
9:30 p.m.-Midnight Hospitality Suite

SATURDAY, MAY 11:

7:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting
9:00 a.m. Bus Leaves for Chicago Botanic Gardens
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Tour of C.B.G., Including Lunch
1:15 p.m. Return to Lilacia Park
3:00-4:30 p.m. Annual I.L.S. Auction
(Refreshments Provided by Lombard Garden Club)
5:00 p.m. Bus Returns to Hotel
6:30-7:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour/Cash Bar
7:00 p.m. Awards Dinner
9:30 p.m.-Midnight Hospitality Suite

SUNDAY, MAY 12: (Optional)

9:00 a.m. Tour of Cantigny Gardens
Noon End of Tour

Early Plantings of Lilacs in Spokane

By John W. Duncan, Superintendent Emeritus
Park Board, City of Spokane

THE PLANTING of lilacs in the Spokane parks has been one of my cherished projects ever since I became superintendent of the park system in 1910. Because I had been so intimately associated with the men who built up the excellent collection of lilacs at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, I had grown to realize how very satisfactory the lilac could be for use in public parks. I had seen how popular the lilac was in attracting crowds of appreciative visitors to the Arnold Arboretum. Consequently, when I came to Spokane and found how especially suited this locality is to the growing of lilacs, I was all the more enthusiastic.

My early recollection of lilacs in Spokane is that there were many fine examples of the common lilac and they may have been the descendants of some of the very first lilacs brought from the east by pioneers. As to the number of named varieties I cannot accurately recall where they were growing at the time, but on the grounds of such well-planted estates as the Turners and the Corbins, there may have been a few of the more popular named varieties. There were, of course, very few of the species lilacs in Spokane.

In 1912 following the convention in Boston of the American Institute of Park Executives, I stopped off in Rochester to see John Dunbar who was undoubtedly this country's most outstanding grower of lilacs. At that time I saw that Mr. Dunbar had commenced the propagation of many lilacs from cuttings in the greenhouse of Elwanger and Barry, nurserymen. When I returned to Spokane, I wrote to Dunbar asking for a collection of lilacs for the parks of Spokane. He was willing to send the hardwood scions if we could get some California privet upon which to graft them. However, it was too late in the season and there was no California privet available here for grafting. This did not prevent me from making plans for establishing the collection right away, and I was determined to get the necessary grafting stock.

About this time a friend of mine announced that he was travelling south and would endeavor to locate some privet for me in Portland, but when he examined the plant material, he discovered that it was not California privet but English privet. This disappointment had its counterpart because I learned by chance that right here in Spokane at Natatorium Park the superintendent had 1000 small California privet growing in his nursery. I jokingly informed him that he might just as well let me have some of his privet because it might not survive the winter anyway, so I traded some Japanese barberry for the coveted California privet. Even though this was the middle of February and the frost was fairly deep in the ground, I dug the privet from

the Natatorium Nursery and placed the stock under the bench in the greenhouse to thaw out. I then wrote to Dunbar for the scions of lilac, a collection of about 129 named varieties. Alex Lowe, the florist at Manito Park, was given the important task of grafting these lilacs, and the success of the project bears testimony to his skill in the handling of this material. The results were most gratifying and in 1916 the newly grafted shrubs had put on sufficient growth to permit their planting outside in the parks. They were planted rather deep, approximately 10 inches deeper than the graft, and in about five years an examination showed that the lilacs were on their own and the privet gone.

The first real collection of lilacs was planted in Manito Park about 1916 and soon after collections appeared in Coeur d'Alene and Audubon Parks. From year to year the plantings in the various park areas were built up by purchases and private donations. The Manito collection was increased by the donation of some old specimens of 'Charles X', 'Marie Legraye', and 'Mme. Lemoine' which had been imported from Belgium by Sanders the florist for forcing in 1914 and 1915. These old shrubs were cut back to the ground but over the years since, they have provided great displays of bloom. The Manito collection at the present time consists of 125 varieties of *Syringa vulgaris* and some 22 species.

In looking back to the winter of 1913 when the collection had its beginning, we cannot help but be impressed by the fact that a humble start marked the first days of Spokane as the lilac city of the northwest. It takes a much longer period of years to build up a show of lilacs, they do not provide a great quantity of blooms as roses or as herbaceous plants do within a comparatively short growing season. It means that as the years go by lilacs will be more in evidence throughout the city.



Woodland, Washington. Homestead of Hulda Klager, now the headquarters of Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens.

Lilac Culture at Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens

By Peg Stenlund

I HAVE WORKED with the Hulda Klager Lilacs for ten years, and most of my experience is trial and error, since we do not have any other lilac gardens like this nearby.

Our soil is river run sandy loam. We use a handful of 5-10-10 in February and October around the dripline. Also the same amount of bone-meal to the blooming age lilacs. We tried mulching when I first started working in the lilacs, but it's too wet in this country and we had a lot of root rot, so we do not mulch any more.

We dig the suckers right after the selling season which is Mother's Day or the middle of May. We dig all the suckers under the many mother plants. If they do not mature enough in one year we keep them for another year, always using the same row for a variety. To stimulate sucker growth we have trimmed old growth and work around the stump; however, we do have some plants that do not sucker well. We have started a lot of new plants and they seem to sucker better. We do not have time or manpower to propagate any other way.

We have planted mother plants ten feet apart around the perimeter of our four acres with mowed walks so people can get close and smell them. Our gardens have about two hundred other landscape trees and plants. We are preserving a garden started by Hulda Klager in the early nineteen hundreds, so we just have what she had in flowers, annual and biennials.

We have a festival of two weeks with ladies dressed in period dress. The house is one hundred years old, so any period is suitable. They are very knowledgeable and answer many questions. We have a list of old plantings and nurseries and a short note on how to plant and why the lilacs do not bloom.

We are located next to a mobile home manufacturing plant that does not work on weekends, so they let us use their parking lot. We do have a small one of our own.

The local newspapers and TV all the way from Seattle to Eugene give us lots of coverage. We have over ten thousand visitors each year from all over the world.

We have our own varieties and we ask from eight to ten dollars, depending on the variety. We always sell out so I guess we are not overpricing. We never sell to nurseries (they usually recommend us to their customers).

We have very little trouble with diseases (I have my fingers crossed). So we do not have to spray. Some seasons that are exceptionally wet we get a blight on the first leaves on some varieties. However, the later leaves are clean without spraying.

All the proceeds we receive go back into the gardens. We are non-

profit so we are not taxed. We are (so far) self-supporting. We have thirty five members and with the community cooperation we survive from year to year. All volunteer. We have a paid live-in housekeeper and an elderly man who mows the lawns and cultivates. We do the rest. During season we hire boys to do the digging. Our membership is all over sixty. Our president this year is Hulda's grandson Roland's widow. Betty Mills is a true worker and devoted to the project.

Hulda Klager Lilacs

DARK PURPLE

Perle von Stuttgart
 *C & E Wilson
 *City of Gresham
 *City of Kalama
 *Frank Klager
 Glory
 *R W Mills
 Ludwig Spaeth
 Von Plitz

WHITE

*Chrystle
 Edith Cavell
 Mme. Lemoine
 *Martha
 Mme. Casimir Perier
 ✓Mt. Hood
 *Weddle

PINK

Alice Eastwood
 *Allene
 *City of Kelso
 *Dr. Hoffman
 Esther Staley
 ✓*Frau Hilda
 *Fred Wilke
 General Pershing
 ✓*Hulda Klager
 *Hyacinth

*Irina
 *Kimmy Marie
 *Lady Lucille
 Marechal Foch
 *Peacock
 *Petite Illene
 *Pink Cloud
 *Pink Elizabeth
 *Pink Ruth
 *Roland Mills
 *Sir Alvin
 *Tiny One
 *True Pink
 Lillian Lee

RED

Congo
 Katherine Mavermeier
 *Mrs. Morgan
 Mrs. Warren Harding
 Volcan

LAVENDER

*Alice Christianson
 *Alice Klager
 *Alice Schiewe
 Capitaine Perrault
 *City of Woodland
 *Countess Irene
 *Daisy G
 *Elinore Hill

*Jake Thomas
 Jean Macé
 *Lamartine
 *Alphonse Lavallee
 *Lori Z
 *Mrs. Berneasha
 *My Favorite
 *Perky Artie
 Persian
 *R & B Mills
 *Van Eaton

BLUE

Celestial Blue
 Decaisne
 Majeskie
 President Grevy
 President Lincoln

MAGENTA

*Alma G
 *Clara Wilke
 ✓Lucie Baltet
 species

MAUVE

Ami Schott
 Mme Antoine Buchner

**Hulda's Propagations*

✓*No Plants Available This Year*



**Grape
Hill
Farms,
Clyde,
NY**

Donald Egolf: A Clean-Cut Einstein of Plant Genetics

By Adrian Higgins, Alexandria, Virginia

DONALD EGOLF was a private man who worked outside the glare of publicity, but his genius for creating new plants from old changed the American landscape. At the time of his death, Dr. Egolf was working on producing disease resistant lilacs, ornamental cherries and crab apples, as



Dr. Egolf among his lilac seedlings at the U.S. National Arboretum.

well as miniature crape myrtles that could be grown in the cold climates of the Northeast and Midwest as perennial plants.

"There isn't a person who has had a broader effect on woody plant breeding in the United States," says Michael Dirr, a professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia and a leading authority on shrubs and trees.

It's like losing Einstein," says Phil Normandy, curator at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Md.

Egolf was a man who carried into middle age the clean-cut figure of his youth as a farm boy from Pennsylvania. He received advanced degrees from Cornell University and came to work at the Arboretum in 1958.

Even to longtime colleagues and associates, Don remained a remote and self-effacing figure content to let his work speak for him. Yet, unlike others in his field, he was eager to share the fruits of his work and allow the nursery trade to reap the financial rewards of his efforts.

He also is credited with the vision to produce small shrubs suited to today's limited backyards as well as disease resistant plants requiring less toxic pesticides.

These driving forces resulted in successes in a broad range of shrubs, all produced for better looks, disease resistance and habit.

Each of Egolf's plant introductions took years of testing before he allowed their release to the nursery trade and the public. He often grew thousands of seedlings before selecting just a handful that met his standards.

The current project with miniature crape myrtles started in 1986 with 20,000 seedlings, says Ruth Dix, a horticulturist who worked under Egolf. "In the first year they were rogued to 10,000 and probably now it's down to several hundred," she says.

He bred a number of viburnum cultivars, including "Shasta," an improved form of the doublefile viburnum, and "Shoshino," a dwarf version of the plant.

He also worked extensively with pyracantha to produce plants resistant to fireblight and the scab disease that wipes out pyracantha's most important ornamental attribute, its berries. His work produced 'Mohave,' now a staple in the trade, as well as 'Navaho,' a slow-growing, compact pyracantha suited to the small garden.

Perhaps Egolf's masterpiece was his crape myrtle breeding program, which to date has led to the introduction of 23 kinds of crape myrtle. It began in the 1960s, when he was looking at ways to breed plants resistant to powdery mildew.

He crossed the commonly cultivated crape myrtle with a rare Japanese species and, through a series of subsequent crosses and backcrosses, pro-

duced plants that not only were resistant to mildew, but grew as beautiful multi-stemmed small trees with stunning bark patterns. They were also more winter hardy than the familiar plant, and had attractive fall foliage.

The first batch of these crape myrtles, which he delighted in naming after Indian tribes, were released to the trade in the late 1960s. Since then, others have been introduced, including those smaller in stature, again for the modern urban garden.

"It's changed the way we look at crape myrtles," says Dirr.

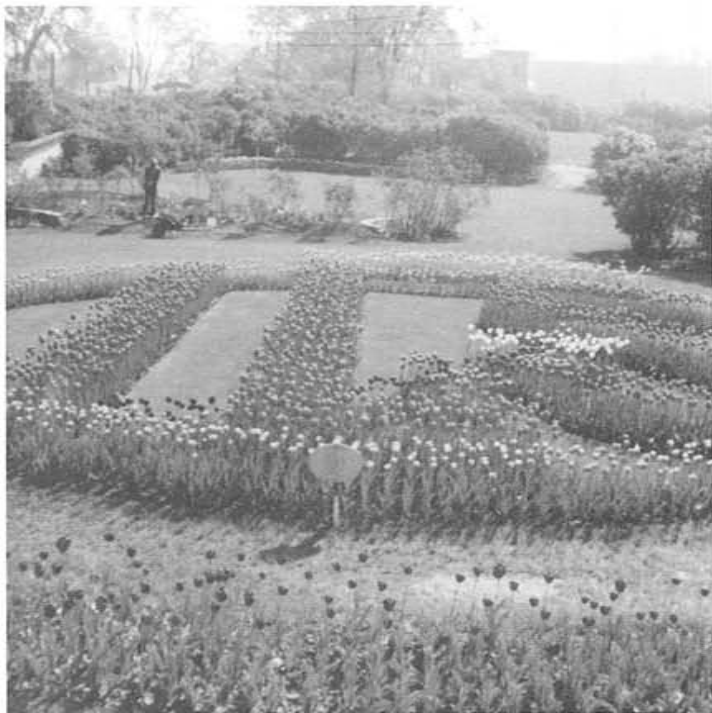
Dirr noted that Egolf's work, and that of other U.S. Agriculture Department scientists at the Arboretum, represents one area of the government where "your tax dollars are doing the whole United States some good, instead of [producing] some goofy service." He says he hoped the Arboretum will have the foresight to continue Egolf's work. Spokesman Erik Neumann says Egolf's plant stock will be kept alive while the Arboretum searches for a replacement plant geneticist.

While many people strive to leave this world a better place than they found it, there is no doubt that Donald Egolf succeeded.

His unfinished projects, as well as the superior plants already in the public domain, will provide plant material for a new generation of hybridizers. "His best days in a sense are yet to come," says Dirr.

***A look
back:
Tulips in
bloom at
4th annual
meeting,
held at
Morton Ar-
boretum
and
Lilacia
Park.***

From Fr.
Fiala's col-
lection.



New Lilac Defies Searing Southern Summer

By Betsy Jukofsky, Hilton Head, SC

GOOD NEWS arrives in the mail. A new lilac has been developed that will grow in the Deep South. A prized flowering shrub that transplanted Northerners miss when they move South is the lilac. Most lilacs require a period of winter chilling to perform; our temperatures are not cold enough, long enough, to provide this requirement.

The Monrovia Nursery Company introduced the Blue Skies™ Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) under the name 'Monore' in 1989, a single bluish purple flowered lilac. It was developed in southern California by Ralph Moore, a prominent nurseryman and plant breeder. Its bright green foliage holds up well in summer heat. It also has a more rapid growth than the rest of the species, growing into a large upright shrub.

Does Blue Skies smell good? You bet. The pleasant aroma of but a few clusters will quickly fill a large room with the familiar sweet fragrance.

Blue Skies prefers full sun and slightly alkaline soil. On Hilton Head Island, where our soil is acid, add a sprinkle of dolomite lime to the planting hole. For those residents who have no full sunspot in which to grow Blue Skies, try situating the lilac in a location that receives at least half a day of sun. Because our sunlight is so intense, most flowering shrubs do not require full sun to produce flower buds.

Once established, Blue Skies is drought resistant, which makes it a desirable choice for today's water-conserving landscaping.

Water and You

Lack of water, especially when coupled with intense heat, slows down many biological processes in plants, according to the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service.

This is often called heat dormancy, although the lack of moisture is at least as responsible for it as the heat. Plants compensate for the stress by relative inactivity. Ordinary cultural practices, instead of being beneficial, can induce further stress. Fertilizers will burn dry root hairs; pruning can force the plant to use reserves to make new growth; and pesticides may be toxic to dry foliage.

Many plants look wilted on hot afternoons even when there is moisture in the soil. Their roots can't take up water fast enough to compensate for the water being lost through the leaves. If there is enough soil moisture, plants will recover by later afternoon. If they don't perk up, water deeply.

Betsy Jukofsky is a columnist for The Island Packet.

Reprinted with permission.

Report From Old Westbury Gardens

Old Westbury Gardens' Lilac walk was originally planted in 1910 with (from what our records show) the following: Monge, White French, Charles Joly, President Lincoln, and others of which we have no records. Through the years the walk prospered and then started a slow spiral downward to today's current condition. With the help of Grounds Supervisor Cynthia Vonderhae we started to renovate the plantings, including Alphonse Lavallee, A. M. Brand, Belle de Nancy, Charles X, Glory, Katherine Have-meyer, Lady Lindsey, Leon Gambetta, Ludwig Spaeth, Mauve Mist, Michael Buchner, Mme. A. Buchner, Mme. Lemoine, Monge, Montaigne, Mrs. Harry Bickle, Pres. Grevy, Pres. Harding, Ruhm Von Horstenstein, Vestale, Victor Lemoine, Edith Cavell, Etna.

Our walk now numbers over 250 plants and 24 varieties. Due to limited availability of large plants we are completing the project over a two-year period, planting only material greater than four feet. The smaller plants are lined out in the nursery for planting spring of 1991 or 1992.

/s/ Nelson W. Sterner
Horticultural Superintendent
Old Westbury Gardens
Old Westbury, NY 11568

LETTERS . . .

Companion Plants to Lilacs

To the Editor:

Peonies are recommended as companion plants to lilacs in Fr. Fiala's book *LILACS*, pages 134-136. In that segment he mentions the Itō Hybrids under the heading "The Interspecific Peony Hybrids," and I should like to clarify that heading.

The genus *Peonia* is divided into two SECTIONS: (1) the herbaceous section, and (2) the woody shrub ("tree") section. Species *within* each section have given rise to "herbaceous hybrids" and "shrub hybrids" (i.e. *Peonia x lemoinei* Rehder 1920).

Until 1954 these were the only two hybrid classes in existence. In that year a third class of hybrid bloomed for the first time in the Itō Nursery (Tokyo, Japan), the "intersectional (or bi-sectional) hybrid," from pollen of a double yellow shrub hybrid ('Alice Harding') on a double white herbaceous peony ('Kakōden', a *lactiflora* cultivar). Since ALL peony hybrids are interspecific, Fr. Fiala's heading for this new class of hybrid inadequately conveys the true nature of the cross. A better heading would have been "The Intersectional Peony Hybrids." A parallel situation in *Syringa* would be any "interseries" cross (e.g. *Syringa x diversifolia* Rehder) or the "inter-subgeneric" cross, if it ever proved possible, between subg. *Ligustrina* and subg. *Syringa*. Hybrids of either cross would be inadequately described if merely labeled "interspecific."

These intersectional hybrids (*Peonia x itōi*), although 50 percent shrub in ancestry and having many intermediate traits, can be treated as a wholly herbaceous plant, cutting the stems to ground level at season's end. Fr. Fiala mentions four named cultivars from Japan. They are all very similar, three of them probably being mutant variations of the one original seedling. News of the intersectional cross did not become widely known in the West until ca. 1967, when U.S. and Canadian hybridizers, including Fr. Fiala, attempted similar "i" crosses. About a half-dozen succeeded. The newer hybrids are coming in a wide range of colors, but yellow, lavender, and prominent flares are the most exciting since these colors and patterns are absent or less well developed in herbaceous peonies. Roger F. Anderson of Ft. Atkinson, WI, has named a dozen originations, and his work is described in Jim Wilson's recent book, *MASTERS OF THE VICTORY GARDEN*.

William J. Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisc.

Member I.L.S. and American Peony Society

Inquiry From Sapporo City, Japan

To the Secretary:

I am a horticultural specialist of Yurigahara-kouen park of Sapporo City in Hokkaidou, Japan. Yurigahara-kouen park is based on flowers, mainly the lily. We have 72 species and varieties of wild lilies and 69 hybrids in the Lily Garden.

Of course, we have many lilacs too. About 400 lilacs are planted. But all of them are unnamed or have lost nameplates (except seedlings of five species from Laoning, China).

We have a plan (dream). Now the plan is about to be realized. In five years we are going to construct another park in Sapporo City based on lilacs.

We made the list of named lilacs planted in Sapporo City. And we have investigated lilacs planted in commercial nurseries in Japan. We know that most of the lilacs in which commercial nurseries are trading are already planted in Sapporo City (35 hybrids and 25 species and varieties). We are planning to collect another 65 hybrids in these five years. We wish to collect 100 hybrids of lilacs, but do not know how to proceed.

Our import firm deals in lots of 3,000 plants. That is too much for us. We would welcome any assistance that International Lilac Society can provide.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Katurou Arakawa

Yurigahara-Kouen Management Division

210 Sinoro-Taihei, Kita-ku

Sapporo, Hokkaidou, Japan

Lilacs Planted in Sapporo City

Lilac Cultivars and Hybrids

S. X chinensis	S. X. prestoniae	Mme. Casimir Perier
S. X henryi	Ethel M. Webster	Mme. Florent Stepman
S. X josiflexa	Etna	Mme. Lemoine
S. X prestoniae	G.J. Baardse	Mrs. Edward Harding
S. X swegiflexa	General Pershing	S. Meyeri Palibin
Aurea	General Sheridan	Paul Deschanel
Charles Joly	Hugo de Vries	President Grevy
S. X hyacinthiflora	Katherine Havemeyer	President Poincare
Clarke's Giant	Madame Abel Chatenay	Ruhm von Horstenstein
Condorcet	S. X chinensis Metensis	S. X chinensis Saugeana
S. X prestoniae Elinor	Miss Ellen Willmott	Souvenir de Louis Spaeth
S. X hyacinthiflora Esther Staley	Mme. Antoine Bucher	S. microphylla Superb

Genus Syringa Planted in Sapporo City

Lilac Species

S. reticulata	S. oblata	S. villosa var. rosea
var. amurensis	S. patula (velutina)	S. vulgaris
S. joskaea	S. reflexa	S. wilsonii
S. komaris	S. reticulata	S. wolfii
S. komarowii	S. sweginzowii	S. yunnanensis
S. meyeri	S. tomentella	S. yunnanensis 'Rosea'
S. microphylla	S. villosa	

A Note From Belgium

To the Secretary:

I was attending a Japanese Iris Convention last Spring in Maine (Dr. C. McEwen) and got in contact with B. McLaughlin and his lilacs.

I just can't resist those flowers any longer and I would like to be a member of the International Lilac Society. What do I have to do? What are the most interesting gardens to visit in the United States this Spring? Are there any nurseries that ship plants overseas?

/s/ Koen Engelen

Herentalsebaan 126A

2520 Ranst

Belgium

LILACDOM NEWS

Birchwood Open House

BIRCHWOOD GARDENS, Bob Clark's New Hampshire lakeshore home, will be fifty years old on Flag Day, June 14th. He and his family will open the gardens to the horticultural-minded public for the month between May 15th and June 15th. Besides native flora the gardens contain collections of lilacs, firs, maples and day lilies, and specimens of rare eastern asiatic woody plants as well as the cedar of Lebanon. Birchwood is situated at the southern end of Meredith Neck with Lake Winnepesaukee on three sides.

Over the past fifty years Clark has collected and planted many native and foreign ornamental woody plants. Birchwood's collections number ninety lilac cultivars, fifteen species of fir, a half-dozen maples and one hundred day lilies, both tetraploids and diploids. They also contain certain American plants growing beyond their native range: flowering dogwood, American holly, mountain laurel, tulip tree, and Buckleya. Late spring is the peak of bloom for woody plants.

Meredith Village is located at the junction of Daniel Webster highway (U.S. 3) and NH 25, marked by a traffic light. Proceed east on NH 25 one block to Pleasant Street. Turn right. Follow yellow median line 5 miles to Cattle Landing parking lot; continue one more mile (beyond Dead End sign) to last driveway on left, opposite Harris Road marked "CLARK. PRIVATE ROAD. NO TRESPASSING." Please leave car at end of Cattle Landing Road. Tel. (603) 279-7756.

Lilac Growing in Idyllwild, California

By Reva Ballreich

THE LILAC is no stranger in this mile high mountain village. No matter whether it be alongside the main road, a small side road or a walkway, there are lilacs growing — common lilacs, hybrid lilacs and species.

One old timer here on the “hill” related to me the story of his lilac collection. In 1929 he and his wife came to these mountains to bring their son to the old tuberculosis sanitarium — which has long since burned down. That transfer from New York was made in their 1928 Pontiac touring car with the back seat removed to load in his 37 Havemeyer, Dunbar and Le-moine lilacs. He had collected lilacs over the years from T.A. Havemeyer at his Cedar Hill Nursery and recalls that the last few years he had gone to the nursery, Mr. Havemeyer sat in a great, high-backed wooden wheelchair, never speaking, only pointing or nodding his approval or disapproval.

In the center of this little hamlet — unless you know what you are looking for — you might easily miss some huge old tree trunks growing straight up in a walkway between some turn-of-the-century buildings. There are no lower branches. But about 25-30 feet up, seeking the sun, these trunks become great umbrellas of lilacs, covering the pitched roof tops from peak to peak. What a sight to behold in the spring. No one seems to know by whom or when these lilacs were planted, but, believe me, they are OLD.

Then there is the garden of the late Tommy Emmanuel, whose large lilac collection tumbles from the crest of a hill nearly to Strawberry Creek, many, many, many feet below, which when in bloom, resembles a huge opened Japanese fan. He had started his collection in 1938 and each Memorial Day weekend, opened his entire gardens to one and all. In our area, he was known as King of the Lilacs.

My own lilac collection was started in 1981 when Tommy Emmanuel gave me several vigorous sprouts from his plants. I must admit here and now, that growing or collecting lilacs was quite far from anything I had on my mind to do. However, over the next few years Tommy taught me to love the lilac. We poured over his McKelvey's Lilac book and some very old Havemeyer and Brand catalogs. Meanwhile, my collection grew.

In October, 1985, Tommy, then 86 years old, lost control of his car on the mountain side and was killed. I mourned for him and was certain I would never find another friend to share my new found love. And then, only two months later, as if by divine pre-planning, the January, 1986, Organic Gardening magazine had a feature article on Lilacs with an invitation to join the International Lilac Society. An immediate reply from Secretary Walter Oakes to my letter for information, suggested I contact Dr. Joel

Margaretten of Leona Valley, California. From early 1986, Joel became my constant teacher, sharing with me the knowledge he had gained from many years of growing, hybridizing and marketing lilacs. Because of adequate rain and snow in my mountains I do not have the same climate problems Joel has on the high desert. However, I do have a great problem with the western red cedar roots, but, I am winning on that count — I cut the offending tree down. That may seem rather drastic to some but unless you have battled with the highly invasive red cedar roots you cannot begin to believe the damage they can do to a garden.

Yes my friends, there are lilacs — many lilacs — growing on this mountain. However, in all fairness, I do believe the soil prepared over the millennia from fallen leaves and rotted branches along with the snow and rainfall, have contributed more to their great success than all the combined textbook expertise.

Lamartine Lilacs for St. Louis

(Reprinted from MBG Bulletin 41 (5): 90-1, May 1953)

By Edgar Anderson

Geneticist to the Missouri Botanical Garden

OUTSIDE of a very narrow belt along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers (where the rich loess soil simplifies many gardening problems), the so-called "Lamartine Hybrids" are the only thoroughly satisfactory lilacs for the St. Louis gardener. These are a series of named varieties produced by the Lemoine family of Nancy, France, by crossing the common lilac with a closely related Chinese lilac, *Syringa oblata* var. *oblata*. From the latter parent they acquire an earlier season, a more open panicle of flowers, a distinctive darker cast of color as they come into bloom, and a lustier habit of growth. To be precise, they should be catalogued under *Syringa x hyacinthiflora*, the recognized name for hybrids between these two species, but the variety 'Lamartine' was the first of these hybrids to become generally known, and many gardeners have fallen into the easy habit of referring to the whole set as the "Lamartine Hybrids." It is natural to do this since most of the single-flowered varieties introduced by Lemoine look pretty much alike, and even an expert could be pardoned for not always being certain just which one of the set he has before him.

Of these several varieties, 'Descartes,' 'Catinat,' and 'Lamartine' seem to have done the best in St. Louis though 'Mirabeau' and 'Pascal' have also done well. They are practical for most St. Louis gardens for a variety of

reasons. In the first place, they are true hybrids and have more hybrid vigor than ordinary lilacs. They come through hot summers and spring droughts better than the ordinary sorts, partly because of this vigor, partly because of their Chinese inheritance. Even more important is the fact that they bloom earlier than other lilacs. This year 'Catinat' was in bloom by April first, and it can always be depended upon to bloom in April. The "Lamartines," therefore, escape much of the heavy heat which usually strikes St. Louis before the common lilac is out of flower. Hot weather and hot drying winds are hard on lilacs. The temperatures in the upper eighties or even in the nineties, combined with dry winds from the Southwest, can sear the opening flowers of the common lilac and cut short their flowering period. The "Lamartine hybrids" flower earlier (how much earlier depends upon the season), and they will frequently be on their way out of flower before the first hot breaths of summer strike our gardens.

It is true that the "Lamartines" frequently flower so early that they are caught by the frost. This is offset not only by their hybrid vigor, which seems to pull them through a freeze in better shape, but by the fact that even quite a bad freeze does not destroy their garden value. There is already so much play of color in the flower, due to the deeper flush on the outside, that the blanching and browning of frost damage are masked, in so far as color effect at a distance is concerned. This year the "Lamartine hybrids" in the Garden came through several frosts, two snow storms, and one freeze after they were in full bloom and have stayed attractive in the landscape for ten days afterward, though not all of the flowering trusses would have been in perfect condition for home decoration.

In planting "Lamartine hybrids" one should remember that they are bigger and lankier than other varieties. They need plenty of room. If they are not pruned back severely from time to time they shoot up and up, carrying their blooms so high that they are more effective in the distance than close at hand. That is probably where they really belong, at the back end of a garden or the far side of the lawn. With good feeding and a little attention they will throw out great trusses of bloom and make effective splashes of mauve and lilac in the landscape just as the Forsythias and Narcissi are passing out of the picture.

We can nearly always count on them for a fortnight of bloom, and in a cool spring such as that of 1953 we may hope to have them with us for nearly a month.

***"THE NICEST THING about gardening is that it
gives you something to live for next year."***

Name Withheld (ILS member to another)

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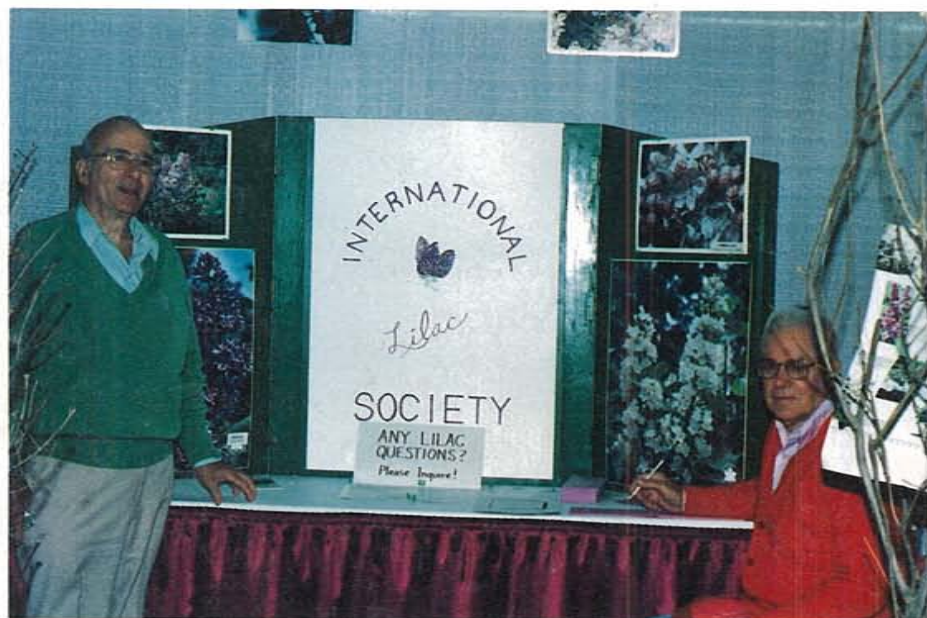
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*A view of ILS exhibit at Eastern States Exposition,
West Springfield, Mass., September 1989.*



GREETINGS FROM MOSCOW...

A. Gromov