Lilacs

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Syringa vulgaris 'Sweetheart'

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of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS ISSUE: Lilacs Around The World

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International Lilac Society

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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 April, 1995

Cover Story

Front Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Sweetheart' (inadvertently listed as *S. x hyacinthiflora* in the last issue) is the spring offering from the propagation and Distribution Committee. 'Sweetheart' was introduced in 1953 and is a double pink. Father Fiala describes it as "very distinctive and attractive". The panicles are heart shaped and the color unique as it changes from a deep pink to a soft pink as the florets open. It is truly an outstanding lilac that has been overlooked for far too long.

There are still plants of 'Silver King' offered in the last issue and both can be ordered at the same time using the Select Plus Nursery insert.

Apparently there is some confusion as to how to order plants with the instructions given in the winter issue. The fault lies with an editorial decision to try to adapt the regular Select Plus nursery form for our special use. Let's try again.

As USA members you can order up to 3 plants of 'Silver King' or 'Sweetheart' or both at a cost of $8.00 per plant (non-members pay $10.00 per plant).

Multiply the number of plants by the cost to get the plant subtotal.

Add Shipping and Handling at the rate of $7.00 for the first 3 plants and $2.00 for each additional plant.

Add 7% for all the certificates and forms. The total of the above lines will give the Canadian total.

Convert to US total by dividing the Canadian total by 1.22 (Note: Canadian customers use the same procedure except that they skip the last step). European customers can work through Colin Chapman for the proper rate of exchange.

Editor's Notes

Convention time is just about a month away! Have you registered? And have you renewed your membership? Inserts for all these things plus the order blank for 'Silver King' and 'Sweetheart' have been repeated for your convenience.

Correction Correction Correction

In the Summer issue (Vol. 23 No. 3) there was a mistake in the listing of the Upton Scrapbooks in the Publications Price List Article. We should have said that what is offered is "reprinted Vols. 1 and 2 of the Upton Books have been combined into our Vol. 1 and Vols. 3 and 4 of the Upton Books have been combined into our Vol. 2." You might want to go back and note that change. If you do, please look over the rest of the Society's publications and see if you should be ordering any.

Wanted

A member, Mr. Douglas Couzens, writes, "Wanted desperately: Source of the beautiful big blue lilac 'Clarkes Giant'." If anyone can help Mr. Couzens please write to him at 973 Marchant Road, RR #1, Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada V8M 1E5.

Lilac Swap Column

President Reva Ballreich suggested that we set up this column as a clearing house for "swaps". Do you have anything to "swap" for "such and such"? This will only work if you write in and list some things. We have none for this issue but start thinking right now of items you'd like to swap that we can list in the summer issue.

Your swap would go here

Chapman Appointed

Colin Chapman has been appointed a member of the Board of Directors of the International Lilac Society to complete the term of Director Daniel Ryneic who was forced by health to resign.

We are very fortunate that Colin can step in at this point to continue his excellent work promoting the Society at the international level and producing a regular "European Newsletter" column. He has worked hard to establish a national collection of lilacs at Norman's Farm, his home in England. He also maintained a veritable flood of correspondence with people all over Europe and has been active in initiating the formation of several new lilac plantings.

His latest "volunteering" is to serve as the European distribution center for lilacs from the Propagation and Distribution Committee's program. This allows Frank Moro to have one mailing address and helps keep costs down but makes a lot of additional work for Colin.

The Society is very fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and hard working person on the Board.

Tips For Beginners

"I bought a new lilac early one spring. It bloomed that spring but hasn't bloomed since (2 years). What's wrong?"

ANSWER: Nothing is wrong; many lilacs take several years to go from transplanting to bloom production. The plant you bought bloomed the first year because the buds were set up in the nursery before you bought it. Then it went into its "transition phase". Normally this doesn't last more than three or four years assuming the plant is in full sun and has a good nutrient supply, but the exact number of years will vary with the variety. Some are slower than others. Once the plant does start to bloom however it should continue with no problem.

If three or four years is too long for you to wait, you might want to try one of the later blooming forms such as 'Miss Kim' *(Syringa patula)* or 'Agnes Smith' *(Syringa josiflexa).* These later blooming forms recover much quicker after transplanting.

New Extensive Lilac Collection Is About To Be Born

By Charles D. Holetich

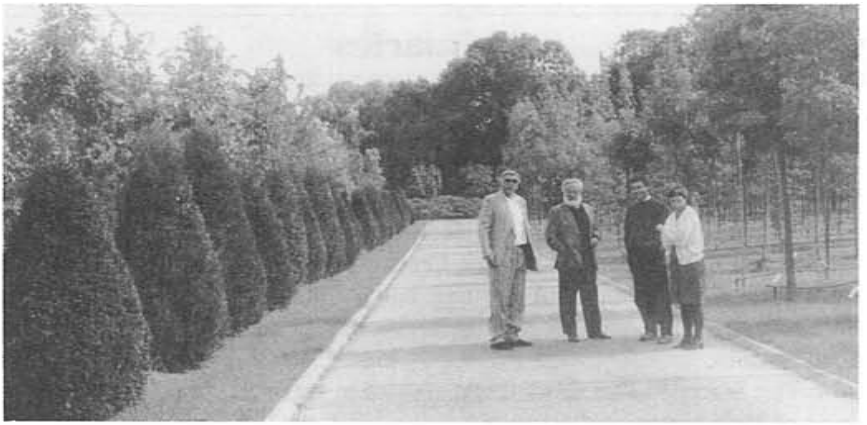
During fall of 1993 Mr. Martial Guinet, the director of the governmental nursery in Val-de-Marne, France, who supplies ornamental trees and shrubs to parks and boulevards of Paris and surrounding cities, telephoned the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario to inquire about the availability of lilac plants and/or propagating material, needed for a large park which is to be developed within next several years. The park is to be officially opened in the year of 2000. I was at the time visiting the Adriatic coast of Croatia and doing some ambassadorial work in Bologna, Italy where two charming people, Valeria Berselli von Jenisch and Carlo Pagani are working on a new lilac collection near Bologna and equally trying to broaden the list of available lilac cultivars in the nurseries catalogues.

One of the major features of the park will be the Lilac Walk. Basically a strip of land on both sides of the path, varying in width, 2-4 lilacs deep. The length of path is sufficient to accommodate 700-800 cultivars, some represented by 3 - 5 specimens. Initially the collection was to feature primarily the Lemoine lilac cultivars. There is a departure in the concept now, with a newly developed desire to feature most of the lilac cultivars and species which prove themselves to perform well in this locale of France. The park is to be developed in Val-de-Marne, located about 20 km east of Paris.

Upon my return from vacation in 1993 several fax messages "paved a path" for Yves and Catherine Dupont from Orleans, France to come in January 1994 and collect 5 scions of each of 384 lilac cultivars. They were mainly the Lemoine introductions. In September of 1994 I visited Duponts and their nursery in Orleans. By that time all grafted lilacs were delivered and planted in rows of the governmental nursery in Val-de-marne.

When we speak of a "green thumb" Yvon most certainly has one.

Yves Dupont, Charles Holetich, Martial Guinet and Biserka Bosak inside rows of new lilacs destined for a new Lilac Walk in Val-de-Marne park – under construction.



Charles Holetich, Martial Guinet, Yves and Catharine Dupont in governmental nursery in Val-de-Marne.

Though he had some losses, he did not by September 1994 lose a single cultivar in its entirety. His major occupation are ferns, perennials and some selected flowering shrubs.

The first year's overwhelming success lead Martial Guinet to organize a second visit in January 1995 by Duponts at which time they collected 428 additional lilac cultivars and species.

I have left my album and some selected slides with Guinet for review and duplication, knowing that the originals will be brought back by Duponts in January.

We were much better organized for collection of scions in January 95. Furthermore we did not have to wade through one metre deep snow as in previous year, so the collection was completed in just under two working days. This gave Duponts an opportunity to explore a bit of Northern Ontario sceneries on which trip they took also a projector and 2000 of my slides to review during evening hours in the hotel room and to select about 180 for duplication. Upon return of the first group of slides I am to go through additional 2000 and extract the best ones for duplication. The plan is that in three groups we would select most of the quality slides from approximately 6000 I have on hand, and help Guinet and Dupont to create their own reference and educational source.

I am confident that completion of the Val-de-Marne Lilac Collection will have a positive influence in educating the people of the lilac cultivar's diversity.

When we add to those the major collections in the making at Kew Gardens, the Colin and Shelagh Chapman collection in England, the Valeria Berselli von Jenisch and Carlo Pagani collection near Bologna, Italy we may look forward to a renaissance of Lilacs and the introduction of even more exciting cultivars in the not to distant future.

Obituaries

Wilson W. Stampe

We have recently heard of the death of Wilson W. Stampe. He died on December 27, 1994 at 82. Mr. Stampe, a long time member of the Society, and his wife, the late Ruth Ellen (Zollars) Stampe founded and nurtured the Stampe Lilac Garden at Duck Creek Park, Davenport, Iowa. He was active in many areas of plant growing, being a member of the Tri-City Rose Club and the Davenport Horticultural Society as well as the International Lilac Society.

The Stampe Lilac Garden was named in recognition of the contributions of Mr. Stampe and his wife.

Arch McKean

The Society has lost a long time friend and benefactor. Arch McKean was 99 years old when he died on January 2, 1995 at the Edwards Hospital in Naperville, Illinois. He lived in Elmhurst, Illinois for many years before moving to New Buffalo, Michigan. Arch was a veteran of World War I and trustee of his church. He contributed actively to a number of plant societies including the International Lilac Society. He was a most generous donor to the Society where his contributions (many of them given anonymously) support a number of our ventures. He is survived by a son, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased in death by his wife Elizabeth; one sister and one brother.

The Society would like a full documentation of his support to our many programs and would appreciate any correspondence, reminiscences or other memorabilia concerning Arch. All these items would be included in the archives of the International Lilac Society. If you have any items to contribute, please contact the Editor for further details.

Patio Grown Lilacs

by Frank Moro

So you've managed to get that soft wood cutting to root or that sucker you dug up has finally stabilized itself. Lilacs are being grown for commercial use in containers for the retail customers by the thousands every year. Have you ever thought of keeping your favorite lilac as what I call a patio plant? A what you ask! Lilacs adapt very well in plastic or terra cotta pots. The idea is to have a plant that can be kept on a patio or on a cement pool walk to give shade and our favorite flowers during the right time of the year. By having different varieties such as a vulgaris, a preston, and a reticulata one could alternate them to have a longer flowering time.

First off, always choose round pots to they can be rolled to get them to their destination after winter storage is over. As your lilac grows never keep it in the same pot for more than 2-3 years. You want to keep the roots from girdling too much around the inside of the pot. When transplanting into a bigger pot make sure you increase in size at by 4-6". So in simpler terms nurseries use gallon sized pots. I suggest the following upgrades. From 1 to 3 gallon, 3 to 5, 5 to 7, 7 to 10, 10 to 15, 15 to 20, and from 20 to 25 gallon. If you visit local garden centers they usually have extra pots they could certainly sell to you.

The advantages of patio plants is colder regions such as mine in Montreal is that I am capable of keeping plants that are not too hardy for our zone. I can increase hardiness by 1 zone. The only extra work involved is for the winter storage. Those who live in warmer climates where temperatures hardly go below freezing could probably just give your plants a good watering before leaf drop. For those who live in heavy snow covered areas and long sub zero weather such as mine, I gather the pots in one area and lie them to their side. This should again be done at leaf drop in the fall. I put down a little rodent poison to ensure they don't become supper for rodents. I then get a white geotextile which is similar to a felt like blanket and cover them. A final cover of a white plastic over the blanket is applied and some old tires are used to weigh all this down. The reason for the white is to deflect heat build up and cause too early bud break. Note that evergreens that go through this ordeal usually hardly take any winter color on at all. Some years ago the city of Montreal starting using Syringa prestonia varieties in large street planters between border dividers on boulevards.

When transplanting always use rich garden soil that is not too heavy. Mix bone meal or a high phosphorous fertilizer to ensure flower buds.

This is just a guide of what can be done. Every garden is different and the best way to get experience is to experiment. Lilacs are tough plants so basically hard to kill. My own 3 gallon production destined to sell to garden

centers for the following spring usually stands upright all winter with no protection. In the winter of 1993-94 we have some 4-5 weeks of -20 to -25 degrees and we sustained no damage. The trick is to make sure the pots are covered completely by snow in cold climates to insulate the roots from freezing.

Anyone who would have any questions about this procedure can write me and I will answer all questions the best I can. They could then be published as a question and answer column in future articles.

Select Plus Nurseries
1510 Pine
Mascouche, Quebec
J7L 2M4 Canada

Transplanting Lilacs

By Robert B. Clark, Ocala, Florida

Lilac lovers are inveterate collectors. We soon find, however, that space and number are unfortunate limitations. The ultimate size of a mature lilac is one factor limiting the number of lilacs we may acquire. Under ideal conditions common lilacs often reach a height of eight to ten feet and a spread (diameter) up to twenty feet. If, therefore, our garden affords one-quarter acre, then at twenty foot intervals we could crowd only two dozen plants without allowing for paths or lawn mowers. The problem therefore becomes a matter of discrimination among some twenty favorite lilacs.

Outplanting

Lilacs plants which have reached three to four feet in height are ready for outplanting in their permanent location. The optimum site for growth depends upon several variables including maximum space, full sunshine, fertile soil and available moisture. These ideals are seldom realized. Let us

assume that adequate space is available for a modest-sized collection, that the site affords a southern exposure, that the soil is loamy to a depth of one foot and that it is well-drained as well as easily irrigated should expected rainfall fail.

First, stick stakes where you intend lilacs to be planted. Survey the grouping for optimum spacing and alignment. View the projected sites form all vantage points. When satisfied, dig the holes slightly larger but no deeper than the root system, unless you are planting in raised bed under soggy or clayey soils. For backfill I use fresh soil and I tamp it firmly using the handle of a D-handled shovel. A berm holds a final bucket of water.

Thinning

Plant thick thin quick is a slogan in landscape planting. The idea is to space the permanent plants far enough apart to permit maximum growth and to interplant with fillers while the desired plants are developing. Often times the gardeners neglect to remove the fillers. Misshapen shrubs result.

If the plants have not yet grown together beyond salvage and you wish to rescue the one-time filler, tie a plastic ribbon on a branch with the best aspect. Next, using garden twine, wrap all canes helically from the base to top so that you do not break any while digging. Preferably using a spade plunge the blade in a ring a goodly distance from the several canes, at least in a one-foot radius, usually somewhat more for a larger shrub. You may even sever some pencil-thick roots. Not to worry. If you work carefully you will manage to excavate the root ball intact. You may wish to wrap the roots in a plastic trash bag or lift it unwrapped into a wheelbarrow. Replanting call for paying attention to the plastic ribbon. Proceed as with outplanting.

Relocating

When a lilac occupies a poor site and requires transplanting, it may be wise to hire an experienced landscape man who has the proper tools. Using powered equipment he can move mature lilacs at almost any season successfully. The owner should insure that the newly transplanted lilac is supplied with the necessary amount of water during the first growing season.

Lilacs – They Grow In Alaska!

By Walter Eickhorst

About five years ago a few suckers of the Common Purple lilac found their way to Alaska, having been separated from a plant dating back to the mid-1880's and growing in the State of Kansas. Of the four twigs making the long trip, three have survived and as of June 1994 each plant did itself proud with about nine panicles of very fragrant and showy bloom.

The small shoots were originally planted-out from storage in pots in May of 1990. About six pounds of lime is spread around each plant annually and they also get a bit of over-broadcast of 8-32–16 which is spread on the lawn, then too the plants are watered almost every day during the extremely short summer (frost often times arrives in mid/late August) – the summers are short and the winters are long in this northland country. Perhaps the greatest problem one must experience here is the browsing of the Moose – these animals of course have their favored food materials but will often come close into the barnyard during the winter months when the snow cover very frequently reaches the four to five foot level. These plants are growing up close to the foundation of the house and perhaps gain a bit of protection in this respect, but on the other hand there are many large specimens growing some 80-miles south in the milder climate of Anchorage.

Still other plants have been growing since about 1935 in Palmer which is approximately 50 miles distant. Palmer was settled about 60 years ago by people from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. The bushes are large and used generously – the area is known to be windswept with little or no snow cover during the winter months, but the temperature here seldom dips below zero, whereas in the Willow area the mercury frequently dips to minus 30 and has dropped to minus 40 degrees on the average of about six times each winter – keep in mind the snow here is usually three to four feet deep. Last spring (1994) three more little suckers drifted up this way and are now planted at an intersection of fencing out at the corral and presently under four feet of snow. Anticipation is at a high level awaiting the melt to see if the little things are still alive.

March 1 – this weekend is the start of the Iditarod Dog Sled race from Anchorage to Nome. Two years ago the Eickhorsts drove snowmachines down the frozen Big Sustina River 22 miles to a spot where the teams headed onto another river and into the wilderness. There were 40 people at the intersection with 35 snowmobiles – we finally left at midnight (22 miles home on the snowsled mind-you) 'cause at that time only 10 of the teams (of the 60 + entered) had gone by –

International Lilac Society
RETAIL LILAC SOURCE LIST

By David Gressley

THE following listing is a response to a retail nursery survey generated to help ILS members obtain specific Syringa taxa. Propagation methods were solicited because grafted lilacs may not be compatible for dense soil textures such as unamended clay soils. Nursery catalogs are free of charge except where noted.

Nurseries Specializing in Lilacs

Country Lace Lilacs, 10202 NE 279th Street,
Battle Ground, WA 98604 / (206) 687-1874

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root. Selection changes annually. Owner is interested in plant exchanges.

Fox Hill Nursery, 347 Lunt Road, Freeport, ME 04032 / (207) 729-1511

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and shipped bare root, container and B & B. Many uncommon selections are available.

Grape Hill Gardens, 1232 Devereaux Road, Clyde, NY 14433

A large and comprehensive collection containing rare lilac taxa not available elsewhere.

Heard Gardens Ltd., 5355 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131 / (515) 276-4533

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root. Approximately 40 selections are available.

Margaretten Park, 38570 North Bouquet Canyon Road, Leona, CA 93550

A large collection of southern acclimated lilacs that includes many introductions from Dr. Margaretten.

Pepiniere Select Plus Nursery, R.R. #1, Brinston, Ontario
K0E 1C0 Canada / (613) 652-1775

Lilacs are produced on their own roots or are micropropagated and are shipped bare root. Up to 800 lilac taxa will be available. Distribution center located in United States for quicker service.

The Lilac Farm, P.O. Box 272-C, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
(814) 398-2528 / (800) 542-4158

Lilacs are produced from rooted cuttings and are shipped via UPS in a moistened wrap. A broad selection is available.

Wedge Nursery, R.R. #2, Box 114, Albert Lea, MN 56007 / (507) 373-5225

Lilacs are produced on their own roots and are shipped bare root and in container. Approximately 140 selections are available.

Private and Estate Collections

Bernard W. McLaughlin, 101 Main Street, South Paris, ME 04281
A private estate featuring lilacs in a unique setting.

Max Peterson, R.R. #1, Box 273, Ogallala, NE 69153
One of the largest private collections in the United States containing many rare lilacs introductions rescued from extinction.

Roger F. Luce, R.F.D. #1, Box 1126, Hampden, ME 04444
A private estate containing one of New England's largest lilac collections with many rare selections. Also specializes in zone 4 magnolias and azaleas.

Retail Nurseries Selling Lilacs

Appalachian Gardens, Box 82, Waynesboro, PA 17268-0082 / (717) 762-4312
Lilacs are sold and shipped in 4½ inch containers. Lilacs are propagated from rooted cuttings. Species lilacs available.

Arborvillage Farm Nursery, P.O. Box 227, Holt, MO 64048 / (816) 264-3911
A moderate selection of uncommon lilacs including introductions from Fr. Fiala. Lilacs are from rooted cuttings, tissue culture and grafts using S. reticulata and S. pekinensis root stock. They are potted and shipped in 1, 2 or 3 gallon sizes.

Bear Creek Nursery, P.O. Box 411, Northport, WA 99157 / (509) 732-6219
Late and common lilacs are grown from seedlings and shipped B&B. Lilacs can be purchased in large quantity.

Carroll Gardens, 444 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157 / (800) 638-6334
Approximately 40 lilac species, hybrids, and cultivars are produced on their own root stock or from tissue culture. Plants are shipped in container. Catalogs cost $2.00.

Corn Hill Nursery, R.R. #5, Petitcodiac, N.B., E0A 2H0 Canada / (506) 756-3635
A moderate selection of S. vulgaris cvs. produced from rooted cuttings that are shipped in container and bare root.

Greer Gardens, 1280 Goodpasture Island Road, Eugene, OR 97401-1794 (800) 548-0111
A moderate selection of S. vulgaris cvs. and several species shipped in 1, 2 or 5 gallon container sizes. Lilacs are micropropagated.

J.W. Jung Seed Company, 335 South High Street, Randolph, WI 53956 (414) 326-3121
Small selection that includes several uncommon lilac taxa usually sold in multi-garden type nursery catalogs. Production method was not specified.

Mellinger's Inc., 2310 West South Range Road, North Lima, OH 44452-9731 (216) 549-9861
A multi-garden nursery that uniquely offers five introductions from Fr. Fiala. These lilacs are produced from tissue culture and are shipped either bare root or container.

Wayside Gardens, 1 Garden Lane, Hodges, SC 29695-0001 / (800) 845-1124
A limited selection of common and unusual lilacs produced from grafted root stock and shipped in container.

White Flower Farm, P.O. Box 50, Litchfield, CT 06759-0050 / (203) 496-9624
Several lilac taxa are offered. They are produced mostly from rooted cuttings and shipped bare root. Some lilacs are grafted.

International Lilac Society
WHOLESALE PRODUCER LISTING

Below are listed the nurseries that produce and sell Syringa taxa liner stock. Contact a representative for selection, minimum order, costs and delivery.

Briggs Nurseries, 4407 Henderson Boulevard, Olympia, WA 98501 (206) 352-5405 / Service (800) 999-9972 / Fax (206) 352-5699
Extensive selection of S. vulgaris cvs. with new additions annually. Tissue cultured and available in 2¼" rose pots and #1 and #3 containers. Lilacs can be contract grown.

Congdon & Weller Wholesale Nursery, Inc., Mile Block Road, North Collins, NY 14111 / (716) 337-0171 / (800) 345-8305 / Fax (716) 337-0203
A varied selection of lilacs in 2½" round x 4" high growing plugs. Lilacs are also available bare root and in container.

Minn Vitro, Inc., 15 West 36th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55408 / (612) 825-8862
Lilacs and other woody plants are tissue cultured and sold in pots. All contracts are exclusive.

R.T. Schilozand, Cloverdale Propagators, 2253 South Cloverdale Road, Woodland, WA 98674 / (206) 225-9581
An extensive selection of S. vulgaris cvs. and other hybrids and species are tissue cultured and sold in 2" pots. This nursery specializes in lilacs which will be 6"-12" when shipped.

Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., 12601 - 120th Avenue, Grand Haven, MI 49417-9621 / (616) 846-4729 / Service (800) 633-8859 / Fax (616) 846-0619
Balanced selection of early, middle and late flowering lilacs. Tissue cultured and shipped in 2¼" or 4" pots

Reprinted from the Winter 1994 issue (Vol. 23 No. 2)

Study On Hybrid Embryo Of *Syringa Persica* x *S. Vulgaris* 'ALBA-PLENA' *In Vitro* Culture

Li Ronghui, Zang Shuying, and Zhang Zhiming

Beijing Botanical Garden,
Institute of Botany of Chinese Academy of Sciences, 100093

Key words Hybrid embryo *(Syringa persica* x *S. vulgaris)*; Isolated embryo; *In Vitro* culture

1. Purpose, materials and methods

Since 1985 we have studied hybridization and breeding of the genus *Syringa* in order to make full use of rich germplasm from China and to breed new cultivars of lilacs. At the same time, culture technique of young embryos was used to overcome abortion of hybrid embryos, and one new hybrid of *S. meyeri* x *S. microphylla,* blooming twice one year was bred in 1988. However, in some combinations of hybridization using general culture technique for young embryos had difficulties in obtaining plantlets from hybrid embryos. In order to solve this problem, we studied *in vitro* culture of young embryos in different developing periods, and their germination ability after pollination at the beginning of 1988. *In vitro* culture of stem tips was reported, but *in vitro* culture of young embryos of lilacs have not been reported up to now.

1.1 Hybridization

S. persica of more than 10 years old was selected as a mother plant, and *S. vulgaris* cv. 'ALBA-PLENA' as a pollen plant. 1595 flowers were pollinated, and compared with unpollinated 1133 flowers from 10 inflorescences in the same plant of *S. persica,* and then situation of fruiting were observed after pollination.

1.2 Compared with rates of bearing fruits and seed germination

After 60 day pollination, fruits from hybridization were compared with ones from natural pollination in bearing fruits and morphology. Seeds from hybridization and natural pollination were planted and their germination rates were checked.

1.3 Embryo culture *in vitro*

In order to study germination ability of hybrid embryos in different developing periods embryo culture was undertaken once every week after 60 day pollination. This culture was done once every two weeks after 90 day pollination until 110 day pollination.

1.4 Culture medium and conditions of embryo culture *in vitro*

The culture medium was MS (Murasgige & Skoog). The temperature was 25 - 2°C, and light density ranged from 1000 to 25001x, and illumination remained 14 hours every day.

1.5 Rooting and transplanting

The medium for rooting was mixture of vermiculite and sand, which should be sterile. Culture conditions were the same as the 1.4 mentioned above. Pot medium for transplanting was peat and sand.

2. Results and Analysis

2.1 In comparison of bearing rates and germination rates from hybridization with those from natural pollination.

Bearing rate of *Syringa persica* was very low under natural pollination and development of its fruits and seeds was not good. However, through hybridization between *S. persica* and *S. vulgaris* cv. 'ALBA-PLENA', bearing rate of *S. persica* obviously increased and its fruits developed well. This showed that average rate of bearing fruits was 49.1% in hybridization and 12.4% in natural pollination, and that compatibility between parent plants was high.

In experiments of crossing and seed planting in successive three years, rate of emergence reached approximately 1%, which indicated that germination ability of seeds from hybridization was very low. The reason was that seed embryos maybe abortive in the course of their development. Germination rate of seeds from natural pollination was low, with approximately 4.4%.

2.2 *In vitro* culture of young embryos

Plantlets were not successfully induced from immature embryos. When cotyledonary primordia began to form and organs differentiated, *in vitro* culture of young embryos was successfully undertaken. At the beginning of 1985, we studied 40-50 day hybrid embryo from crossing combination of *S. persica* x *S. vulgaris* cv. 'ALBA-PLENA' for *in vitro* culture in successive three years, which were failure to obtain plantlets because its hybrid embryos did not germinate. The reason was that cotyledonary primordia maybe not form. But in another combination of *Syringa meyeri* x *syringa microphylla,* we repeated same procedure using in the combination above and rate of plantlets developed was 25% from *in vitro* culture and 4% from hybrid seeds respectively. This experiment showed that overcoming abortion of hybrid seeds by young embryo culture *in vitro* is significant to hybridization breeding of lilacs.

2.3 Hybrid embryo culture *in vitro* in different periods

Hybrid embryos from crossing between *Syringa persica* x *S. vulgaris* cv. 'ALBA-PLENA' were cultured *in vitro* for three years, which showed that suitable period of hybrid embryo germination was from 85-95 days after pollination. At this time, collecting embryos were cultured and germination rate of them reached 12.7%; germination rate of seeds developed from hybridization was approximately 1%. This experiment result provided a possibility of obtaining lilac hybrids and selecting new cultivars after interspecific hybridization was successfully done.

In hybridization experiment, we also observed that embryos planted before July 18 (pollination about 80 days ago) did not germinate in period of culture and finally was abortive. This result was consistent with culture *in vitro* of inmature embryo mentioned above. Some hybrid embryos began to blacken when pollination was done after 90 days; number of blackening embryos increased after 95 days. Besides influence of early abortion of hybrid embryos to culture results, embryos were injured easily and did not develop into plantlets if embryos were not carefully peeled off from capsules.

2.4 Rooting culture and transplanting

When embryos were cultured into plantlets, it is not directly transplanted in genus *Syringa*. Through experiments of several years, we found a more suitable way of rooting, that is, when plantlets grew 4 leaves, roots from embryos were cut off and transplanted for culturing strong plantlets in new medium of MS. After about one month, plantlets developed to be strong and had 6-8 leaves, and then transplanted into bottles with media consisting of vermiculite and sand (V/V=2:1) for culture (Plantlets were soaked into 0.1mg/1 IBA [Indole butyric acid] for 1 hour before transplanting). At this time, humidity of medium should be controlled to be suitable, and water was not stored up in medium. After about two months when plantlets developed lots of fibrous roots in the bottles, stoppers were taken off for preparing transplantation out of the bottles. Flower pots used had better be made of clay, and media for planting young lilacs should consist of peat and sand (V/V=3:1). Under water control and meticulous management, survival rate of transplanting plantlets reached 80%.

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Note: Xinlu Chen is an ILS member on a complimentary basis. He has sent this article to compensate for his dues. This arrangement opens us to information that would not otherwise be available to us and we appreciate Mr. Chen's efforts and Charles Holetich for bringing it to our attention.

John C. Wister's Writings On Lilacs
A Tentative Bibliography

By Freek Vrugtman and Gertrude Smith Wister

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The late John Wister had a long and active association with lilacs; his articles, books and compilations on the subject span a period of almost fifty years.

John Caspar Wister was born on the 19th of March, 1887, in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and died on the 27th of December, 1982, in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Already at an early age Wister was interested in plants, and after graduating from Harvard University in 1909 he continued his studies at the Harvard University School of Landscape Architecture and at the New Jersey Agricultural College (Rutgers). He practiced landscape architecture in North America and Europe and developed close links with numerous plant societies. Wister was a prolific writer; his early flower favourites appear to have been irises and roses adding, in the mid 1920's, lilacs and peonies, daffodils and other bulbs but, as he once said, he liked all flowers, especially those in bloom at the moment.

As director, and subsequently as director emeritus, of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation at Swarthmore College Wister initiated, assembled and grew a notable collection of lilacs. The lilac was Mr. Scott's favorite shrub, and the first plant planted at the new Scott Foundation was a lilac.

John Wister lectured widely, especially in the 1920s and early 1930s, which provided the opportunity for visiting lilac collections from coast to coast. For his Germantown garden he imported many lilacs directly from the nursery of Victor Lemoine et Fils at Nancy, France.

Swarthmore College awarded him an honorary doctor of science degree in 1942. In 1956 the A.H. Scott Foundation was appointed International Registration Authority (IRA) for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* and Wister became its first registrar. When the International Lilac Society (ILS) was founded in 1971 Dr. Wister was one of the founding members.

INTRODUCTION

We have called this bibliography a tentative one because the information presented here has been extracted from other, more comprehesive bibliographic notes compiled by the late John C. Wister in 1958 and supplemented to 1965. Whenever possible the entries have been verified against the original publications, reprints, tear-sheets or photocopies, but there have been information gaps. In spite of the imperfections and shortcomings we are of the opinion that this bibliography can serve as a finding tool for those interested in or working on lilacs.

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