Lilacs

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Syringa vulgaris 'Znamya Lenina'

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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.

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Cover Story

Front Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Znamya Lenina' in the University of Wisconsin Arboretum at Madison, Wisconsin. The picture was taken by Brad Bittorf on June 3rd, 1996. As one goes further north, lilac bloom time gets progressively later.

Back Cover

Trunk of a lilac on Mackinac Island. Father Fiala's book – just under 9 inches wide – is included for scale. Photo credit - Brad Bittorf.

Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for material to go into the next issue of **Lilacs** which will come out in January 1997 is **December 8, 1996.**

This is the Membership Issue so we want to be sure it is out on time.

News News News

The Utleys, Bill and daughter Wanda, are considering retirement from one of the world's premier lilac collections/gardens. Approximately 85 acres bordering on the Erie Canal and in close proximity to the Outlet Mall, it is well positioned for expansion and growth. The main house is Circa 1824 with rental house and trailer on property. The gardens may be seen in *Martha Stewart's Living Magazine,* 1996 issue as the feature article. For inquiries to purchase, please call weekends only at (315) 923-7290.

Attempt To Identify A Lilac Cultivar On Mackinac Island

by Bradley Bittorf

June 7, 1996

I found myself on Mackinac Island with a little time before the next event, so I decided to try to identify the one cultivar that actually had any open florets in Marquette Park.

I suspect that Walter Eickhorst, Bill Utley and William Horman may have done the same thing earlier, so it will be interesting to hear their version of any findings and whether we contradict one another.

The first steps were simple. Examine the plant. Even I (!) could discern that it was a double white.

My next step was to look up some really old double whites, since the canes (at that size they aren't canes, they are trunks!) on this plant was a least a foot in diameter. (Really! We are talking Mackinac Island where borers don't seem to get going too well.)

This revealed several candidate cultivars. I arbitrarily picked things prior to 1905, such as 'Mireille', 'Mme. Abel Chatenay', and 'Mme. Lemoine'. I had settled on vulgaris partly because I saw no clues of hyacinthiflora pigmentation on stem or leaf, or other hyacinthiflora indication, although I certainly could be shortsighted or wrong about this. The choice of dates was really an attempt to find the oldest candidates I could.

Next I examined the leaves. Some leaves of the plant I was examining had an extended protrusion of the heart shape at the tip. This was consistent with the picture of 'Mme. Lemoine' in Fiala's *Lilacs: The Genus Syringa.* (Don't leave home without it, the *Tentative Register* and the *Addenda and Corrigenda,* I say, although it was annoying to drag them about all day.)

However, the plant I examined seemed to lack the deep ribbed veins of the obverse like the Fiala picture. I was aided in that I found a young cultivar of 'Mme. Lemoine' nearby that was labeled! So I compared. Leaf color was brighter green, nearly "yellower" on the younger labeled plant. However, this might be attributed to the age or vigor of the specimens, or differences in adapting to the winter with established roots, I reasoned.

The tagged and the unknown plant were close with regard to leaf shape, but the ribbing intensity on the leaf undersides contraindicated 'Mme. Lemoine' and suggested 'Mme. Abel Chatenay'. A sucker stem taken from the unknown plant exhibited a similar pattern of foliage development and exposition as the tagged 'Mme. Lemoine'.

Determination by bud and floret examination briefly caused me to consider 'Jean d'Arc' because of the straight or slightly reflexed florets exactly matching the drawings of 'Jean d'Arc' in Fiala. Yet neither the leaf shape nor color seemed to support the 'Jean d'Arc' theory – plus it was introduced at least a decade later than the other varieties under

consideration.

Next considering coloration of bud and floret, it appeared that 'Mme. Abel Chatenay' exhibits a blue or silvery cast to its white buds, while 'Mme. Lemoine' shows a creamy yellow cast to its unopened buds. The unknown plant clearly demonstrated a creamy yellow-white bud with no blue or silver suggestion. Thus I have declared the larger plant to be 'Mme. Lemoine' principally on the strength of its bud color and the sometimes pronounced elongation of its leaf tips.

Was this correct? I don't know. I had discounted color differences with respect to foliage, yet used them to identify opening florets. I had not done an exhaustive survey of early double whites. I did not accurately establish the age of the plant under scan. I didn't have photos of 'Mireille' to use in judging. I may be been swayed by the nearby labeled plant.

Your chance to prove me wrong (or maybe even right?!) will come during the 1997 meeting on Mackinac Island. The plant I examined is, as I recall, to the northeast of the statue of Marquette, nearest to the statue on the southernmost point of that bed.

I am including a picture with this article so you can all write in and tell the editor how foolish I am. But remember, there are dozens more varieties on the island remaining to be identified!

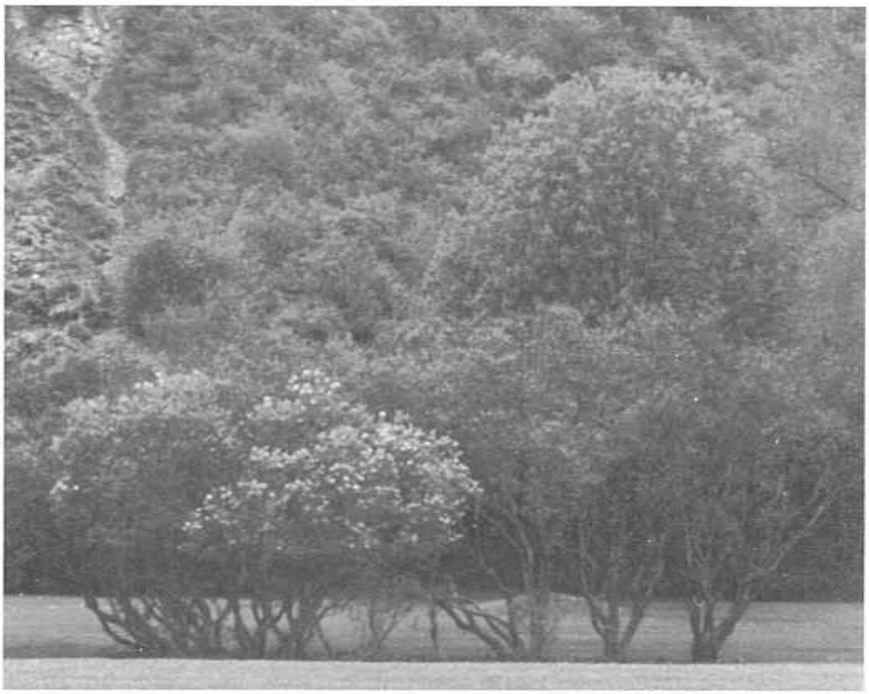


PHOTO CREDIT - BRAD BITTORF

Lilac bed on Mackinac Island.

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman, Executive Vice President – Europe

NCCPG National Collection of Syringa

Three years ago, I went to look at the old National Collection of Lilacs at Withdean Park, Brighton, England and found the situation to be quite serious. The hurricane of October 1987 had destroyed some of the plants and had stripped away all the labels. Further regular losses had been caused by the predations of rabbits and the situation was made worse by the introduction of competitive bids for maintenance contracts in the park. This created a system which minimized costs but which also led to the breakup of the park team who had experience in caring for and developing a National collection. At the time of my visit Philip Williamson had been placed in charge of the collection.

On June 8th, 1996, I returned to Brighton to meet Philip Williamson and also Jill Hutchings, Research assistant to the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG). Prior to my visit, Jill had mapped the position of every surviving lilac and had labelled each plant with an unique number. Two years ago, Philip had initiated a pruning program and this produced sufficient strong growth of scion wood to enable Ivan Dickings, Chief Propagator at Notcutts, and his staff to re-propagate the entire collection. These propagules were growing on beautifully in a large, shaded greenhouse but they were identified only by the numbers allocated to the parent plant.

Philip's local knowledge of the sites, Jill's meticulous planning and preparation, and my experience with cultivars enabled us to complete an enormous amount of work in a very long day. We were able to verify or identify about 110 different kinds of lilac. This means that the lilacs in three of the fourteen beds can now be named as can most of the very important lilacs in the Stanmer Road Nursery bed which were assembled and planted in the early 1980's. There is an equal amount of work to do next year and I have arranged for propagating material of several interesting lilacs which I could not identify to be sent to me so that I can study them at home.

There were several treats on show. Of exceptional merit was quite the finest *S. v.* 'Mme. F. Morel' I have seen with enormous heads of single magenta flowers. There was a superb *S.v.* 'Mrs. W.E. Marshall' which was smothered in flowers of the deepest purple. It was a joy to recognize U.S. immigrants 'Glory' and 'Sarah Sands' as well as the lovely Canadian *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Muriel'. Most wonderful of all was *S.v.* 'Virginité' which was pink and white, demurely double with a little bow tied over the eye of each floret, and so aptly named. I took with me to Brighton ten own rooted Russian and Polish lilacs as in initial donation from the International Lilac Society. It was an encouraging and very rewarding visit. Philip Williamson is doing a fine job in bringing this national treasure back to life

and Jill's thorough research and planning made it possible to achieve far more than I expected to be able to do. It is a fine example, I think, of action being taken with the British system for the protection of garden plants. This was a case of mutual cooperation between two collections, the Propagation Department of Notcutts and the NCCPG.

I have received a splendid consignment of own rooted lilacs propagated by Martin Staniforth at Kew. Distribution is a problem but any ILS-Europe members who can get to Norman's Farm to collect should contact me if interested. Among the plants are two of Karpow-Lipskii's lilacs, obtained from Warsaw, which are not, I think, represented in North American collections. I will try to get propagating material of them to RBG Hamilton this winter. They are:

S.v. 'Kardynal' and *S.v.* 'Chmurka'

They flowered for the first time this year, but I will not publish detailed descriptions until they flower more maturely although I will give a hint. 'Chmurka' looks a handsome SVI. 'Kardynal', also single, appears to open with tones of dark rose which turn to a deep violet. This raised much interest among our visitors and I would expect it to become a popular lilac.

The long, cold, dry spring in England gave me a truly surprising bonus. When I returned from the Poughkeepsie meeting, the *Syringa vulgaris* season should have been all but over – yet it had not even started! By the last week in May we had postponed 200 reserved visits to the collection from people all over the country. With absolutely nothing to show I turned down requests to visit from the Principal of the prestigious Inchbald School

PHOTO CREDIT – COLIN CHAPMAN

One of fourteen beds in the lilac planting at Withdean Park, Brighton, England. Pieces of chalk can be seen in the soil and the pH is 8.4.

of Garden Design and also from our truly influential *Gardeners' World* magazine.

Then, in that final week of May, the sun began to shine and proclaimed the onset of a traditional English 'blazing June'. Within days I was being derided by 500 lilac plants chanting in unison "Oh ye of little faith!". They produced the most spectacular flowering we have ever had and for one riotous week we had hyacinthifloras, vulgaris cultivars, late hybrids and species all flowering simultaneously. I could have cross pollinated *Syringa emodi* with *S. vulgaris* 'Louis Maddock' if only I had thought about it.

Despite the concentrated season, the plants flowered in their proper sequence. As ever, *S. pinnatifolia* was the first to flower, closely followed by *S. ×diversifolia* 'William Judd'. Then 'Esther Staley' promulgated her beauty and advised the nation of the flowering of the *×hyacinthifloras*. She was sensational with boughs bent low with up to twelve flower thyrses on each. Her bright pink lit up the dark background of Ilex ×koehneana 'Chestnut Leaf' and entering her zone of fragrance was as palpable as walking into a wall.

The utterly enchanting *S. ×hyacinthiflora* 'Patricia' flowered for the first time and showed bluish florets which are semi-double in that there is a tiny whitish bow which discreetly covers her eye. 'Anabel' flowered well for the first time. She is planted in the orchard where she adds distinction to the coincidental flowering of the old french pears.

Of the *S. vulgaris* cultivars, 'Decaisne' was again outstanding. 'Pol' Robson' produced a profusion of upright spikes of single florets, each of which revealed a chromatic range of hues from blue-purple in the eye to deep magenta at the tips of the lobes which gave the illusion of a captured sunset. 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' had flowered before but now, for the first time, she displayed her ravishing beauty. 'Old Fashioned' was even more breathtaking than last year and it amazes me that this extraordinary lilac has been overlooked. It has floret lobes so long, narrow and reflexed and which fade to such a lovely pale silvery-blue that the flowers look like a sculpture in lathe-turned shavings of steel.

Finally, I had a moment of deep spiritual satisfaction. I had noticed a plant which was growing at Hamilton, and not doing well, in dark shade, but a photograph of a single floret convinced me of its significance and distinction. I requested propagating material and, this year, my two plants of 'Zhemchuzhina' flowered. The stunning large double florets are of an almost pure translucent pink. Sadly, I was so thrilled by her sheer beauty that in her presence I thought only of romantic poetry rather than scientific objectivity and I forgot to complete an evaluation form so I cannot, now, recall details of bud, fragrance, or colour modulation when fading. I am sorry that I let all you guys down, but I do excuse myself on the grounds that in her presence I was truly in love.

Norman's Farm
Wyverstone, Stowmarket
Suffolk, IP14 4SF England

We'll Gather Lilacs

Reprinted from March 1996, Volume 55 of
The Cottage Gardener; *The Newsletter of the Cottage Garden Society*
written by Colin Chapman, England

In the first year of the second world war, my parents rented (and subsequently bought) a house in the wonderful area of Kingston upon Hull called 'The Garden Village' There was an old blue lilac by our gate and, opposite the bus stop where I waited to go to school, the sign 'Lilac Avenue' was a daily reminder of my location. This is when the first subliminal roots of my passion took hold.

The site at Norman's Farm, which we have occupied for 13 years, is shaped like an egg. Through the long axis there flows an attractive winter stream which dries up in the summer to give a deep and quite unmanageable ditch which we euphemistically call our 'wild bog garden'. It is, in fact, the haunt of so many frogs, toads, newts, dragonflies, butterflies, etc. that we dare not attempt to tidy or tame it beyond keeping the water channel free. In 1984 we thought of partially screening it and conceived the happy idea of making a lilac walk from one end to the other – a distance of about 200 yards.

By 1988 we had collected 35 different kinds and were quite content with our little collection but, in that year, there was published *Lilacs, the Genus Syringa,* by J.L. Fiala (Timber Press). The colour plates in this book revealed a world of lilacs undreamed of in this country. Through the book, I contacted the International Lilac Society in America and, in 1991, went over to see for myself. There I received a warm and generous North American reception and met and befriended Charles Holetich, arboriculturalist at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Hamilton, Ontario who is the curator of the largest lilac collection in the world and displays it to perfection in a beautiful, long, green, meandering dell.

Shortly after, a major illness compelled premature retirement and convalescence yielded time for research and correspondence. Following advice from MAFF and with full phytosanitary documentation, I began to collect winter scions of rare and long forgotten lilacs, from my new friends and contacts, and these grafted onto privet, or wild lilac understocks. I had no prior horticultural training. Before the first precious scions arrived I practiced grafting, for the first time, on twenty plants. Nineteen of them failed!

We now have four hundred different kinds of lilac, although most are still young and about half of them have yet to flower. Flowering begins in early April with *Syringa pinnatifolia* and later in April there appear the early-flowering *S. ×hyacinthiflora* hybrids of which the Canadian cultivars 'Maiden Blush', 'Pocahontas' and 'The Bride' are outstanding. Throughout May, the cultivars of *S. vulgaris* are in bloom. The first to flower is always

the American pink one call 'Lewis Maddock' and the last, which can hold bloom well into June in a cool spring, are 'Etna' and 'Taras Bul'ba'. The late hybrids (*S. ×prestoniae* and *S. ×josikaea)* and several of the Chinese species will flower until mid June. The rare tree lilacs *(S. reticulata, S. pekinensis)* will flower in early July. The compact *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' will frequently give a second flush of its pretty, lilac-purple flowers in August and, in a sunny place sheltered from severe wind, *S. microphylla* 'Superba' will go on putting out pink flowers until the first frost. Not counting the latter, we usually have some lilacs in bloom a period of three months.

Lilacs prefer a good loam with a neutral pH but they will tolerate mildly acid soil and chalk. They need moisture in the spring and early summer for flowering and flower-bud set but they cannot stand standing water at the roots. In heavy soil, or high rainfall areas, they must be set on a hillet to aid the run-off of surface water. A light feed of phosphate in April will aid flowering, but so will good husbandry and an annual dressing of compost. Lilacs go virtually dormant after flower bud-set but they need reserves for the fattening of the flower buds which occurs after a cold and frosty spell in mid winter.

When the stem exceeds about 3.5 inches in diameter, the size of bloom will deteriorate and the best flowers occur on vigorous stems of one or two inches thick to ensure constant, high quality bloom. The ideal lilac would be on its own roots and grown as a 10-12 stemmed shrub so that the thickest stem can be removed each year, and a new one grown to take its place. Thus the plant would be completely renewed each decade. The so-called 'suckers' grow from buds which form on the stem just above or at the root line. By keeping the soil friable, these can be exposed and rubbed out each April apart from the one selected to grow on. We are trying to maintain our lilacs at less than nine feet high and in prime flowering condition.

They must have full sun to produce all-round, top-to-toe flowering, so the lilac cannot thrive with any plant that overshadows it. I grow lilacs in association with shrubs that can be cut back to allow the lilac to perform, but which will grow to veil the lilac whilst she is working on the formation of next year's display. The most sympathetic of these is the Buddleia or, as E.H. Wilson so appropriately called it, the 'Summer Lilac'.

International Lilac Society Retail Lilac Source List

by Walter Oakes

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 are shipped bare root, container and B & B. Many uncommon selections are available.

Grape Hill Gardens
1232 Devereaux Road
Clyde, NY 14433
(315) 923-7290
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 Rd.
Leona, CA 93550
A large collection of southern acclimated lilacs that includes many introductions from Dr. Margaretten.

Select Plus Nursery
1510 Pine Street
Mascouche, Quebec J7L 2M4
Canada (514) 477-3797
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) 398-2728 (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

Reva Ballreich
P.O. Box 1804
Idyllwild, CA 92549-1804
(909) 659-4070
Mountain retreat garden containing over 350 different lilac taxa. Garden clubs and other groups welcome.

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.

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

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 mutli-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.

Twombly Nursery
163 Barnhill Road
Monroe, CT 06468
(203) 261-2133

Research Abstracts

Editor's Note:
These abstracts are reports of published research. They are included here as a sampling of lilac research being done around the world.

HOWARD, B.H.; HARRISON-MURRAY, R.S. **Responses of dark-pre-conditioned and normal light-grown cuttings of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Madame Lemoine' to light and wetness gradients in the propagation environment.** *Journal of Horticultural Science* (1995) **70** (6) 989-1001 [En, 9 ref.] Horticulture Research International, East Malling, Kent ME19 6BJ, UK.

Leafy cuttings of *S. vulgaris* cv. Madame Lemoine were prepared from shoots grown normally in the light or pre-treated by starting growth in darkness. Their response to the propagation environment was measured

using an artificially illuminated controlled propagation environment (CPE) constructed with perpendicular gradients of water deposition (mean range 13-209 μm/h) and light (mean range 17-289 μmol $m^{-2} s^{-1}$), creating a matrix of light and wetness. The main effect of dark-preconditioning was to reduce stem DM by reducing both stem diameter and DM percentage. This in turn almost doubled the ratio of leaf area to cutting stem DW, which appeared to determine the relative rooting advantage of dark-preconditioned cuttings in most environments, given that photosynthetic rate, and respiration rate per unit of stem tissue, were broadly similar for light-grown and dark-pretreated cuttings. By day 10, just prior to root emergence, basal necrosis was evident in some light-grown cuttings in most environments, whilst among the dark-pretreated cuttings this was less serious or absent in high light, but more frequent and extensive in low light. The combination of high light with low wetting caused permanent wilting of both types of cuttings. Callusing and subsequent rooting after 3 weeks reflected the viability of cuttings, with more dark-pretreated cuttings rooting in the high light, heavy wetting zones, but a slight advantage for light-grown cuttings in the darker, drier environments. Differences in rooting between the two sources of cuttings were correlated with the accumulation of DM in the proximal section of stem between planting and the emergence of roots (days 0 to 10). This usually favoured the dark-pretreated cuttings with an initially low DM content, improved rooting being associated with both enhanced DM accumulation at the stem base in the high light, and less loss of DM than in light-grown cuttings at low light. From a practical viewpoint it is important to note that environments likely to be found in commercial propagating houses do not have the necessary high wetting in high light or low wetting in low light shown to support rooting in these experiments.

– Horticultural Abstracts 1996 Vol. 66 (No. 3) pg. 312

3236 ZANG SHUYING; FAN YINGHAN; LI RONGHUI **Breeding of new cultivars in the genus *Syringa* (Oleaceae).** In *International symposium on cultivar improvement of horticultural crops. Part III: flowers, Beijing, China, 6-10 September 1993 [edited by Zhu DeWei]. Acta Horticulturae* (1995) No. 404, 63-67 ISBN 90-6605-877-3 [En, 3 ref.] Botanical Garden, Botanical Institute of Academia Sinica, China.

The potential value of wild Chinese *Syringa* species in breeding new ornamental cultivars with resistance to adverse environmental conditions was examined. The species studied were *S. oblata, S. vulgaris* var. *alba-plena, S. meyeri* and *S. microphylla.* Brief information is presented on the inheritance of parental characteristics. Cultivars Zi Un, Luo Lan Zi and Xiang Xue derived from the cross *S. oblata* × *S. vulgaris* var. *alba-plena,* and cv. Si Ji Lan from the cross of *S. meyeri* × *S. microphylla* are briefly described.

– Plant Breeding Abstracts 1996 Vol. 66 (No. 3) pg. 439

PILARSKI, J. **Participation of stems and leaves in photosynthetic assimilation of CO_2 in lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.).** *Photosynthetica* (1995) **31** (4) 585-592 [En, 18 ref.] Franciszek Górski Department of Plant Physiology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Slawkowska 17, 31-016 Kraków, Poland.

Photosynthetic assimilation of CO_2 in stems and leaves of 4-year-old potted lilac plants, grown under field conditions, was compared in Apr. and July. The results were calculated with regard to the surface area of particular year-groups of stems and to the total surface area of the stems, as well as to leaf surface area. In Apr. the stems were the only site of photosynthesis. In July the main organs of CO_2 assimilation were the leaves, while the participation of the stems in that period amounted to 2%. Photosynthesis in the stems used mainly endogenous CO_2. Photosynthetic capacity was determined on the basis of oxygen release by chloroplasts isolated from the bark and leaves. In July the production of oxygen by chloroplasts from the bark of all stems was 5% of the amount of oxygen released by the chloroplasts isolated from the leaves. In Apr. the production of oxygen by chloroplasts isolated from the bark of particular year-groups of stems was higher than in July. In the process of CO_2 assimilation by the bark and leaves, the potential chemical activity of chloroplasts was not fully utilized. Potential CO_2 assimilation by chloroplasts isolated from the bark was 8.5 times higher than the measured results of CO_2 exchange in July and 35.8 times higher than those in Apr.

Horticultural Abstracts 1996 Vol. 66 (No. 4) pg 437-438

940 PINKER, I.; JESCH, H.; DEMOCH, G. **[Cold storage of *Syringa* shoot cultures *in vitro*.]** Kühllagerung von *Syringa*-Sprosskulturen *in vitro*. *Gartenbauwissenschaft* (1993) **58** (1) 11-14 [De, en, 8 ref.] Institut für Zierpflanzenbau and Baumschulwesen, Humboldt-Universität, 1170 Berlin, Germany.

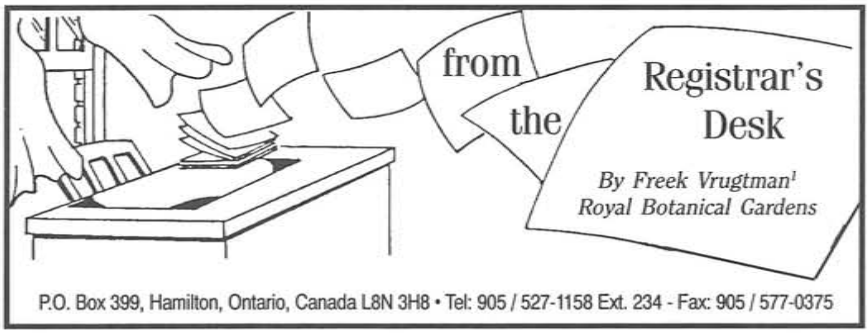
Shoot tip cultures of the *S. vulgaris* hybrids Mme Florent Stepman, Katharine Havemeyer and Jules Finger were stored for 2-6 months at 4°C (150 lux, cool white/white). Preconditioning the shoots by transferring them to the growth chamber for 14 days before storage improved their storage properties. After storage, Jules Finger was more vigorous than Katharine Havemeyer and Mme Florent Stepman, the latter 2 hybrids showing a deterioration in the condition of their shoots after 4 months' storage. Storage quality was best using a solid, growth regulator-free medium rather than a liquid medium or one containing benzyladenine at 2.2 mg/litre. However, any loss in quality of the shoots during storage did not affect their ability to regenerate. The shoots could be used for propagation again immediately after storage, and they showed at first a higher multiplication factor than cultures kept to the normal propagation cycle. Mme Florent Stepman and Jules Finger shoots could also be used for rooting *in vivo* with an approx. 90% survival rate.

Plant Breeding Abstracts 1995 Vol. 65 (No. 1) pg 132-133

PUKA, G.B. **[Gene pool of lilac varieties in Latvia.]** In *Tezisy dokladov 4 Mezhdunarodnogo kongressa Evropeisko-Sredizemnomorskogo otdeleniya Mezhdunarodnoĭ assotsiatsii botanicheskikh sadov "Rol' Botanicheskikh sadov v sovremennom urbanizirovannom mire", Tbilisi, 22-29 aprelya, 1991.* Moscow, Russia (1991) 145 [Ru] From *Referativnyĭ Zhurnal* (1991) 8Ya3415.

The collection of the Academy of Sciences Botanical Garden currently holds 70 cultivars. At different times, up to 90 have been grown in Latvia, the most widespread being Michel Buchner, Ludwig Spath, Mme Lemoine, Mme Florent Stepman and Marie Finon. The first 4 of these are recommended for their ornamental value, together with Vestale, Ellen Willmott, Cavour, Belle de Nancy, Ambroise Verschaffelt, President Grevy, Herman Eilers and Esther Staly.

Plant Breeding Abstracts 1995 (No. 6) Abstract No. 5701



By Freek Vrugtman[1]
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All correspondence concerned with additional information or plants or propagules of newly registered lilac cultivars should be directed to the registrant listed below, not to the Registrar. Commencing with 1995 lilac registrations, standard portfolios are being established in accordance with Principle 3 and Articles 12, 22 (Recommendations 22G and 22H), and 32 of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants – 1995 (ICNCP – 1995).* Previous registration list of *Syringa* Cultivar names appeared in *AABGA Bulletin* [13(4):105-110; 14(3):95; 15(3):71-72; 16(4):131-132; 17(3):67-69; 18(3):87]; *HortScience* [23(3):458; 24(3):435-436; 25(6):618; 26(5):476-477; 29(9):972].

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Clyde Heard'.** Registered 14 July 1995, by the late William R. Heard for Heard Gardens, 5355 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, Iowa. Named for his father, the late Clyde H. Heard, founder of Heard's Landscape Nursery, Des Moines, Iowa. 'Clyde Heard' is a chance seedling of unknown parentage; it was first observed about 1962, first propagated in 1970, and introduced in the mid-1970's. Vigorous, well-branched shrub. Thyrses strong, erect, to 17cm (6.75 inches) long, born well above the foliage; strongly fragrant. Florets single, average diameter 18 mm (0.75 inch); corolla lobes rounded; medium red-purple in bud [70C, *Royal Horticultural Society (RHS Colour Chart),* 1986 ed.], purple once opened (corolla tube 76B; lobes 76C), and fading to pale red-purple (69D). The name "Clyde Heard" appeared without description in the 1984 *Lilac List* of Heard Gardens. Standard portfolio at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, Hamilton, Ont., Canada.

The following three lilac cultivar names were registered 18 Sept. 1995 by Jean Paul Davasse, Pépinière Minier, B.P. 79, F-49250 Beaufort-en-Vallée, France. The selections resulted from hybridization performed in 1976 by Claude Bellion at Pépinière Minier. In 1995, these cultivars were introduced

[1]Registrat, International Registration Authority, for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa.*

in the trade. Descriptions and color photographs appeared in *Minier; Les arbres on des idées,* an undated descriptive catalog (probably Fall 1994). Standard portfolios at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Comtesse d'Harcourt'.** Seed parent: 'Jeanne d'Arc'. Seedling first flowered in 1982. Vigorous shrub, 4-5 m (13 to 16 feet) tall; foliage pale green. Thyrses 30 to 40 cm (12 to 16 inches) long. Florets single, to 20 mm (0.75 inch) in diameter with roundish corolla lobes; color pure white. Flowering early (mid-April in Angers, France); blooms abundantly every second year.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Prince Wolkonsky'.** Parentage: 'Charles Joly × 'Sensation'. Seedling first flowered in 1980. Branched shrub, 3-4 m (10-13 feet) tall; foliage dark green. Thyrses 25 to 35 cm (10 to 14 inches) long. Florets double; red-purple in bud (58A, *RHS Colour Chart)* pink-lilac once opened (75A to 75B). Blooms regularly every year and as early as 3 years from propagation by cuttings.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Princesse Sturdza'.** Parentage: 'Philippe de Vilmorin' × 'Sensation'. Seedling first flowered in 1982. Vigorous shrub, 4 to 5 m (13 to 16 feet) tall; foliage green. Thyrses 30 to 40 cm (12 to 16 inches) long. Florets single, to 20 mm (0.75 inch) in diameter, with somewhat triangular corolla lobes; dark pink in bud, pink-lilac once opened (75A, *RHS Colour Chart,* 1986 ed.) Blooms regularly every year.

The following two lilac cultivar names were registered 20 Nov. 1995 by Robert E. Hoepfl, Highland Botanical Park, 171 Reservoir Ave., Rochester, NY 14620, USA. The selections resulted from hybridization performed by Richard A. Fenicchia at Highland Botanical Park. Plants of these cultivars have been distributed for trials, but have not yet been introduced in the nursery trade. Standard portfolios at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Alvan R. Grant'.** (syn. Alvan Grant). Seed parent: 'Rochester'. Seedlings first flowered in 1976. Tidy shrub to 2 m (6.5 feet) tall. Thyrses of open structure, 15 cm (6 inches) long and 9 cm (3.5 inches) across; fragrant. Florets single, cupped, 2.5 cm (1 inch) in diameter; red-purple in bud (71A, *RHS Colour Chart),* opening to purple (80B); corolla lobes 1 cm (3/8 inch) long. The name "Alvan Grant" appeared without description in *Garden Center* (of Rochester) *Bulletin* [50(5):5; May 1994].

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Martha Stewart'.** Seed parent: 'Rochester'. Seedling first flowered in 1978. Shrub to 3 m (10 feet); suckering freely. Thyrses of semi-open structure, to 25 cm (10 inches) long and 15 cm (6 inches) across; quite fragrant. Florets large, single, with radial doubling apparent, 2.5 cm (1 inch) in diameter; purple in bud (75A, *RHS Colour Chart*), opening to violet-blue (91B); corolla lobes 1.1 cm (0.5 inch) long.

The following nine lilac cultivar names were registered 9 Nov. 1995, by Sarmīte Strautiņa, Augļkopības Laboratorija, Graudu iela 1, LV-3701 Dobele, Latvia. These cultivars are selections made by the late Peter Upitis (in Latvian: Pēteris Upītis) (1896-1976) at the same institute. Plants of these cultivars have been distributed for evaluation trials, but have not yet been introduced in the nursery trade. These selections are known to be hardy to -36C (-24F). Names and descriptions have been published: Kalniņš, L.Ceriņu jaunšķirnes Dobelē. *Dārs un drava* 1986 (12):13-15 (in Latvian). Standard portfolios have been opened at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, but are still incomplete. It should be noted that in accordance with *ICNCP–1995,* Art. 29.3, "Diacritical marks must be retained in cultivar . . . epithets."

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Daudzpusīgais Zemzaris'.** (syn. Daudzpusiigais Zemzaris). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Vigorous shrub 3 to 3.5 m (10 to 12 feet) tall, of low density. Bark of new growth dark violet-brown. Thyrses conical, dense, 17 to 24 cm (7 to 9.5 inches) long, 12 to 16 cm (5 to 6.5 inches) wide. Florets single, to 2.5 cm (1 inch) in diameter; purple in bud (77A, *RHS Colour Chart,* 1966 ed.), open florets purple (77A).

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Dobeles Sapņotājs'.** (syn. Dobeles Sapnjotaajs, Dobeles Sapnotaisa). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Vigorous compact shrub to 3 m (10 feet). Thyrses pyramidal, to 17 cm (6.5 inches) long, to 11 cm (4.5 inches) wide. Florets double, 2.5 to 2.7 cm (≈ 1 inch) in diameter; multiple corolla with three layers. Flower buds purple-violet (82D, *RHS Colour Chart*); open florets purple-violet (80C), fading to 85B.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Esības Prieks'.** (syn. Esibas Prieks, Esibas Prieks, Esiibas Prieks, Tikshanaas Prieks). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Shrub of medium vigor, 2.5 to 3 m (6.5 to 10 feet) tall. Bark of new growth yellowish-gray. Floriferous; flowering very early in the season. Thyrses loose pyramidal, 27 to 30 cm (10.5 to 12 inches) long, 17.5 to 24 cm (7 to 9.5 inches) wide. Florets single, to 2.6 cm (≈ 1 inch) in diameter. Flower buds purple (78B, *RHS Colour Chart*); open florets violet (84A), fading to red-purple (73A).

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Gaistošais Sapnis'.** (syn. Gaistoshais Sapnis). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Vigorous pyramidal shrub, 2.8 to 3 m (9.2 to 10 feet) tall. Bark of new growth brownish-gray. Thyrses 15 to 17 cm (5 to 7 inches) long, 12 to 14 cm (5 to 5.5 inches) wide. Florets single, 2.2 to 2.5 cm (≈ 1 inch) in diameter. Flower buds violet (85C, *RHS Colour Chart*); open florets violet (84C) with silvery-white margins, fading to 85D. This cultivar occasionally produces white florets, white thyrses, or both; it may be a chimera. The color of the florets is lighter than that of 'Sensation'.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Gaiziņkalns'.** (syn. Gaizinkalns, Gaizinkalns, Gaizinjkalns). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Shrub of medium vigor, 2.5 to 3.5 cm (6.5 to 10.5 feet) tall. Thyrses very dense, pyramidal, 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) tall, 11 to 15 cm (4.5 to 6 inches) wide. Florets double; corolla multiple, in three layers. Flower buds purple (78B *RHS Colour Chart*); open florets purple (78C), fading to red-purple (70A).

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Māte Ede Ūpītis'.** (syn. Maate Ede Upiitis, Mate Ede Upitis). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Compact shrub of medium vigor, 2 to 3 m (7.5 to 10 feet) tall. Conical to irregular thyrses 22 to 31 cm (9 to 12 inches) long. Florets single, 2.7 to 3 cm (1 to 1.5 inches) in diameter; corolla lobes curved upward at the apex. Flower buds white (155D, *RHS Colour Chart*), open florets pure white. May be distinguished from 'Vestale' by the upturned apex of the corolla lobes.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Pērļu Zvejnieks'.** (syn. Peerlju Zvejnieks). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Compact vigorous shrub with strong, thick branches. Thyrses nodding, 18 cm (7 inches) long, 15 cm (6 inches) wide. Florets single, 2.7 to 3.2 cm (1 to 1.25 inches) in diameter; corolla lobes turned upward at the apex. Flower buds white (155D, *RHS Colour Chart*), open florets pure white. May be distinguished from 'Vestale' by the upturned apex of the corolla lobes.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'TTT'.** (syn. No. 3138). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Thyrses of medium density, to 24 cm (9.5 inches) long, 16 cm (6.25 inches) wide. Florets single, to 2.8 cm (1.2 inches) in diameter. Flower buds violet (85A, *RHS Colour Chart*), open florets purple-violet (80B).

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Vēstule Solveigai'.** (syn. Veestule Solveigai, Vestule Solveĭgai). Selection of unknown parentage and unknown age. Vigorous shrub of low density, to 3.5 m (10.5 feet) tall. Thyrses conical to irregular, to 28 cm (11 inches) long, 13 to 18.5 cm (5 to 7.3 inches) wide. Florets single, 2.7 to 3.2 cm (≈ 1.2 inches) in diameter; corolla lobes curved. Flower buds purple (77A, *RHS Colour Chart*); open florets purple (77A), fading to violet (83D).

Addenda and Corrigenda

***Syringa ×hyacinthiflora* (Lemoine) Rehder 'Lavender Lady'.** J.S. Pringle studied this cultivar and determined its ancestry to be *S. oblata* × *S. vulgaris; Lilacs Quarterly Journal* [24(4): 97-99; 1995]; original registration in *Arnoldia* [23(4):81; 1963].

***Syringa microphylla* Diels 'Daphne'** –deleted–. The notation: " 'Daphne' (syn. of *S. microphylla superba)"* appeared in *Arnoldia* [23(4):80 1963] as a new registration; it is now believed that this is an erroneous entry.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Charles Lindbergh'.** This spelling and the spelling used in the original registration in *HortScience* [24(3):435] is correct; the spelling used in *HortScience* [29(9):972] is erroneous.

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Krasavitsa Moskvy'.** The spelling used in the 1970 Lilac Registration, *Arnoldia* [31(3):125; 1971)] was incorrect; the originator is L. Kolesnikov; Rubtzov, L.I., et al., *Lilac spp. & cvs. in cultiv. in USSR,* 57 (1980) [in Russian; English translation in *Lilacs* 11(2):20, 1982].

***Syringa vulgaris* L. 'Oakes Double White'.** The name was registered in 1963 and published as 'Oake's Double White' in *Arnoldia* [23(4):82; 1963)]. This is a misspelling since E.M. Meader named the lilac for Elijah Oakes; see *International Lilac Society Pipeline* [3(2):3; 1977].

The following is reprinted with permission
from the *Press-Enterprise* Idyllwild, California, May 1996

Idyllwild Woman Opens Lilac Garden To Visitors

Reva Ballreich has 353 hybrids and species of lilacs, some from as far away as Russia, Poland and Germany.

Fumigation of her 1928 log house years ago killed her only lilac bush, but now Reva Ballreich has a few hundred of the fragrant shrubs to show off today at her hillside Idyllwild garden.

"Just follow your nose," Ballreich tells friends who came earlier this week to preview today's public tour sponsored by the Idyllwild Garden Club. The scents of the flowers – from spicy to lemon to floral lilac – are strongest morning and evening.

Unseasonably hot weather forced an early bloom on the mostly 6 to 9-foot-tall bushes nestled in a forest of cedars and pines along meandering pathways.

Others grouped in small nurseries are too young to bloom and some are still sprouting back from a harsh freeze that burned them to stubble last year. But visitors will not be disappointed.

Ballreich has specimens of yellow ('Primrose') and salmon ('Lucie Baltet') colored lilacs as well as the white, lavendar, pink and deep purple varieties.

Whether she is sitting on a lilac-print cushion or walking along paths, she calls some of her collection effortlessly by tongue-twisting botanical names and common names. Her favorites have exotic names: 'Krasavitsa Moskvy' from Russia and Decaisne from France.

Dressed in a lilac and rose print blouse and linen-colored slacks, she talks about lilacs as if they were a lifelong passion. But she was only introduced 12 years ago to the shrub by the late Tommy Emanuel, known as the "lilac king" of Idyllwild. She transplanted cuttings he gave her and as they bloomed "I was hooked," she said.

Today, she is in her fifth year as International Lilac Society president, attends annual conventions, lilac auctions and buys or trades specimen cuttings grown throughout the world. The society has more than 500 members.

Her love of gardening bloomed after retirement to Idyllwild. In 1982, a friend gave her some daffodil and tulip bulbs. Next she tried 35 rhodedendron bushes. "My mother wasn't a gardener. I don't believe she even knew how onions grew," said Ballreich, 72, a widow with two grown daughters.

She grew up in Ohio but through family friends her parents discovered Idyllwild and built a cabin for summer vacations. Her first love was music and she once toured as a concert pianist.

Her life revolves around lilacs now. She gives garden talks and recently

gave a slide show at Descanso Gardens near Los Angeles about the late lilac expert Father John Fiala, a hybridizer who lived in Ohio.

The Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada has a registry of about 1,800 hybrids and 26 species. Ballreich has 353 hybrids and species, some from as far away as Russia, Poland, and Germany. She considers her bushes young, four to six years old.

Her friends include lilac lovers throughout the country. One of her correspondents is Max Peterson, who farms 800 acres of wheat in Nebraska and about four acres of lilacs. He got his start in 1964.

"Once you see one you've got to have this, you've got to have that," he said. "We just keep adding every year." Up to 5,000 people visit his garden each year."

Editor's Notes

On the inside front mailer cover of the Winter Issue of **Lilacs** (Vol. 25, No. 1, 1996) we included an order form for the Colour Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society. On the form it said that the price was £25.00. Unfortunately our information was out of date and the RHS has informed us that the correct price of the chart is £70.00 plus £5.00 postage and packing by surface mail or £8.50 by air. I think you'll agree that we are looking at a substantial "correction" but I urge you to still consider ordering the chart. It is the standard color reference for the entire plant world and is done with all the care and quality control levels for which the RHS is known.

The Research Abstracts in this issue are included to keep you abreast of the kind of research being done on and with lilacs around the world. It would be nice if one of those abstracts excited an ILS member to become involved in one of those projects, but even if you are not ready to plunge into a research lab, you can still know what others, some with ILS support, are doing and publishing.

Dennis Eveleigh of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton (Ontario, Canada) informs me that the archival material sent to RBG is all in good order and, through Dennis, they are prepared to accept more material from ILS members. This is a great opportunity to get your ILS material into a permanent storage situation. Your editor has taken advantage of this and has forwarded all of the labelled pictures sent to him for consideration of

use in **Lilacs**. I always return pictures when there is a request to do so but that still leaves me with a number that are well labelled – that is a necessity for archival value – and record events of ILS. If you are not ready to send off archival material this very minute, you might want to look ahead. In 1997 the ILS convention will be at RBG and you could see the storage arrangement and let Dennis know if you need to put restrictions on your material. Remember if you don't get it properly filed, it will eventually be LOST.

Publications Price List

Edward A. Upton Scrapbooks of Lilac Information

(Edward A. Upton). 1980, 1987. Reprinted vols. 1 & 2 of the books in our vol. 1 and vols. 2 and 3 in our vol. 2. Material collected and assembled by a noted nurseryman relating to lilacs from the 1920s to the mid-forties. Black and white. Limited editions. Numbered.

$22.50 $18.50 to members

Lilac Study

(Joseph Dvorak, Jr.) 1978. Reprint. Line drawings of lilac flowers, foliage and stem detail. Descriptions of form and color. Soft cover. Black and white.

$10.00

Tentative International Register of Cultivar Names In The Genus Syringa

(New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station). 1976.

Listing of more than 1200 species and cultivars, names, color, flower form, originators if known. Soft cover. Black and white.

$7.50 $5.00 to members

Corrigenda To The Register

After the Register was published, new information came to light on some species and cultivars, classifications were changed where necessary as were colors and flower form.

$.500

Lilacs Plants of History – Plants for Tomorrow

By Jack Alexander and Nan Sinton. Answers all your questions on lilac care.

Free with new membership applications.

$2.00 each for additional copies.

Back Issues

At the Convention several people expressed interest in obtaining back issues of **Lilacs** to complete their runs. With the help of Pauline Fiala and Robert Clark, I've gotten an idea of our inventory. There is no problem after Volume 17 when the journal became a true quarterly bulletin. Anyone wanting single copies of any issue from Vol. 17 (No. 1) to Vol. 25 (No. 3) can get them by writing to the Editor. Copies of issues before that time (Vol. 17) are not nearly as easy to find but if you contact the Editor with your "wants" he will try to find them for you.

Since "fair is fair", the Editor has a request for you. We are looking for copies of Vol. 11 (No. 2) to put into the Archives. It was a special issue on the *"Lilac Species and Cultivars in Cultivation in U.S.S.R."* and none of the original sources seem to have kept extra copies. If you can share, or give, a copy of that issue, the Archives will be in your debt.

Contributions From Members

Have you ever noticed the line labelled "Voluntary Contributions" on your membership renewal form? A number of people have and the money has gone directly toward improving the programs of the International Lilac Society. The roster below lists those people who have made a gift to ILS lately.

John and Ann Carvill
Sylvester Lesniak
Josiah M. Fowler
M. Conrad White
Neil Grant
Dana D. Woody
Sterling Leisz

Many thanks from your Society. Your contributions allow ILS to do things that otherwise would not be possible.

Tips for Beginners

Can I grow lilacs from seed?

Yes, you can. Collect the seed in the fall, separate the seed from the pods, label the origin of the seed, and store them in a cool, dry place through the winter. In the spring, sow the seed in a good seedbed, either inside or out, and transplant to larger spacing as they grow. It will be some years before the seedlings bloom but anticipation makes the final success all the sweeter. Just remember, the seedlings will not be copies of the parent that produced the seed, especially if the pollination was done by insects. Even if the pollination was controlled – this is what the plant breeders do – the genetics of the lilac is such that there will be considerable variation among the seedlings. If the original cultivars involved have good characteristics, many of the seedlings can be expected to be decent and, possibly, a few will be world beaters which can be registered and propagated by cuttings so that all the increase will be exact copies of the parent plant.

International Lilac Society

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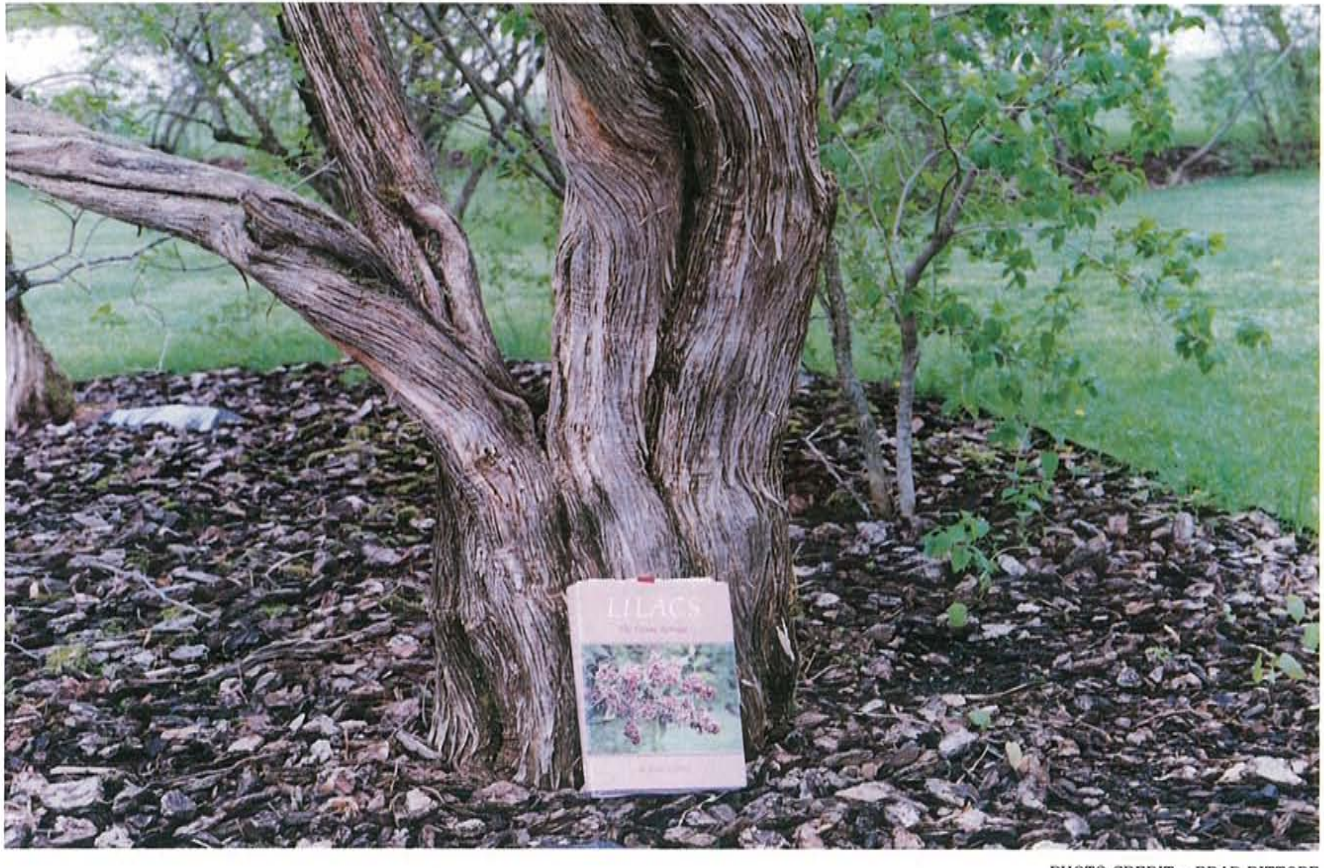

PHOTO CREDIT – BRAD BITTORF