

Lilacs

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IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Convention Issue
Cultivar Register Ready

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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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LILACS 1998

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Covers

Front Cover

View over the Katie Osborne Lilac Dell at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Back Cover

Part of the Gilbert family, surrounding 'Maidens Blush' at "Pie In The Sky", their property near Cooperstown, NY.

Next Issue Deadline

The deadline for material to go in the next issue of **Lilacs**, which will come out in July, is June 8, 1998.

This issue will contain reports and proceedings of the Annual Meeting. It often includes pictures taken at the convention (if people send some to the editor.)

Editor's Notes

Did you pay your dues? If it said "Dec '97" on your mailing address they were due. Also, there is a line on the Membership Renewal Form that indicates that you can make a voluntary contribution for the good of the cause. The list below gives the names of people that have taken advantage of this opportunity in 1997 and have therefore earned the gratitude of their Society.

John & Ann Carvill

Mark & Darlene Clements

Barbara J. Doane

Josiah Fowler

Janice Fricke

Neil Grant

Sterling Leisz

Sylvester Lesniak

Jane H. McMickle

Beverly Schaeffer

Gerald & Theresa Valasek

Linda Whypp

Dana Dewey Woody

Dennis Eveleigh indicated that we could use more lilacs for the auction at the May convention. So, if you have plants to contribute or need more information about how to get plants across the border, please contact Dennis at the Royal Botanical Gardens. (905) 527-1158.

Under the heading of lilac nostalgia, Bob Gilbert received this note from Lillian Eldridge of Boynton Beach, FL.

"While having a conversation with my parents on their 50th wedding anniversary, the subject came up as to how did you meet? My dad replied, your mother was with a girl friend crossing a bridge, with an arm full of lilacs. Beautiful face and the bouquet set her off. Naturally it was such an unexpected answer but what a lovely one."

You may wonder if this edition of **Lilacs** should be called the Robert B. Clark issue since it includes three articles authored by Bob and there are two more being held until the summer issue. I especially like the two biographical notes on Edgar Anderson and John Dunbar, and would welcome more of these thumbnail sketches of people who were important to the development of the current day lilacs. Why don't *you* submit one? In this vein be sure to note the Remembrance of Ken Berdeen sent in by his granddaughter Lynette, together with the report from Evie King and Roger Coggeshall on their work with the Berdeen collection.

Tentative Schedule of Events at the 1998 I.L.S. Convention

Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)
Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario, Canada
& The Venture Inn, Lakeshore Blvd., Burlington

• WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Registration
I.L.S. Board of Directors Meeting
Dinner on your own
Hospitality Room

• THURSDAY, MAY 28

Breakfast at the hotel
Buses to Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG Centre) for a morning of speakers
Some of the topics include:

- "The Flora of China and its Implications on Lilac Taxonomy"
- "Lilac Propagation Techniques"
- "Landscaping with Lilacs"
- "The Lilac Story (the new entrance to the RBG Lilac Dell),
its design and development"
- "Conditioning Cut Lilacs for Use in Floral Arrangements"

Lunch at RBG Centre
I.L.S. Annual Meeting
Buses to the RBG Arboretum
Tour of the RBG Propagation Facilities
Tour of the RBG Lilac Dell (over 800 species and cultivars)
and an opportunity to stroll through the collection
President's Dinner
Hospitality Room

• FRIDAY, MAY 29

Breakfast at the hotel
I.L.S. Board of Directors Meeting
Buses to Niagara Falls
Tour of the Niagara Parks Commission Lilac Garden at the Floral Clock
(1200 plants, 265 cultivars)
Tour of the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden
including the Lilac Collection and Tropical Butterfly Conservatory
Drive-by view of Niagara Falls
Buses back to Royal Botanical Gardens (box lunch)
Lilac Auction at the RBG Lilac Dell (or RBG Centre in the event of rain)
Awards Banquet
Hospitality Room

1998 ILS Convention

Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton/Burlington, Ontario, Canada

It's time to mark your calendars for the Annual ILS Convention. It will be held on May 27th, 28th and 29th (Wednesday to Friday) at the Venture Inn in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. The banquets and board meetings will be held at the Inn while the conference meetings will be held at RBG Centre, the headquarters of the Royal Botanical Gardens. The RBG Centre features a restaurant, gift shop, Mediterranean Greenhouse and many theme gardens and plant collections in the adjacent Hendrie Park area. The Royal Botanical Gardens maintains 400 acres of cultivated garden area and over 2300 acres of nature preserves with an extensive system of nature trails for visitors to enjoy.

The convention will include several visits to the Katie Osborne Lilac Dell at Royal Botanical Gardens' Arboretum which should be in full bloom at this time. If the weather permits, the ILS Lilac Auction will be held at the Lilac Dell also. This vast lilac display is located on the rolling slopes of a three-acre woodland valley under the partial cover of mature trees. The collection consists of around 800 different lilacs (including examples of most of the wild species) and approximately 1200 lilac plants. In the late afternoon the lilac scent naturally accumulated in the base of the dell creating a natural pool of lilac fragrance. Under construction now and scheduled to open in late May is the new entrance to the lilac dell. It will tell the story of lilacs and feature topics that include: wild species lilacs, the history of lilac breeding, lilac scent and the lilac colour classification system. This display will consist of a series of "garden rooms" each featuring a different topic. Actual lilac plants will be employed to illustrate the story that is explained on a series of interpretive panels. The display will end at the main descent into the lilac dell.

While at the RBG Arboretum, a tour of the RBG propagation facilities will be included and will feature an explanation of RBG's lilac propagation techniques. The RBG's historic Rock Garden and Laking Garden (perennial collections) will not be featured on the tour but could be visited by delegates on their own, later.

The other major field trip will be to the Niagara Falls Area. We will visit the Niagara Parks Commission's Lilac Collection. This garden planted in the 1960's features around 1000 plants of 250 cultivars planted out on the side of a hill with a look out area at the highest point. We will also visit the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden to tour the grounds and the new Tropical Butterfly Conservatory. This Conservatory is said to be the largest of its kind in North America and contains hundreds of

free-flying butterflies in a tropical rain-forest setting. While we will not visit the other gardens and attractions at the Falls, the tour bus will drive through Victoria Park and by the Falls before returning to Burlington.

The Venture Inn resides on the shore of Lake Ontario with many of the rooms and facilities overlooking the eastern tip of the lake with the scenic Niagara Escarpment in the background. The inn is situated in the Burlington downtown area with shopping and restaurants only steps away. Beside the Inn is Spencer Smith Park, Burlington's largest waterfront park, with its large green space and pedestrian promenade. At the end of the park one will find the Burlington Art Centre, the city's art gallery and Joseph Brant House, one of Burlington's local history museums.

Before or after the convention there are many places for the convention attendees to visit in this area of Ontario. Within Hamilton itself one could visit Dundurn Castle, historic Whitehern house or the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The Niagara Falls area is only forty-five minutes drive from the Hamilton/Burlington area and includes many horticultural and tourist attractions. There are many attractions and sights to see in the Toronto area also, which is also only a forty-five minute drive from the Hamilton/Burlington area.

Mark your calendars, and send in your registration if you have not already. This is a convention not to be missed.

Travel directions to get to the Venture Inn, Burlington

From QEW Niagara (from the Niagara Falls Area)

- Go to the Stoney Creek / Hamilton Area
- Follow the QEW (Toronto direction) over the Skyway Bridge (Hamilton/Burlington)
- Once over the bridge look for the Lake Shore Blvd (Burlington) turnoff
- Turn right onto Lake Shore Blvd and proceed about two blocks to the Brant Street intersection
- Brant Street is on the left and the Venture Inn and the water front park (Spencer Smith Park) and Lake Ontario is on the right.

From Highway 401 (from the Windsor/London Area)

- Just past Woodstock turn onto Highway 403 to Hamilton
- Follow 403 through Hamilton to the QEW link in Burlington.
- Take QEW Toronto (middle and left lane of 403) NOT the QEW Niagara (right lane)
- Immediately after you have taken the QEW Toronto the highway will go up a bridge

- Immediately get in the right lane and take the Brant Street turnoff ramp (right) at the top of the bridge
- At the end of the off ramp, turn right on to Brant Street
- Follow Brant Street South through the downtown area to Lake Shore Blvd.
- Brant Street ends at Lake Shore Blvd. and the Venture Inn.

From QEW Toronto (from the Toronto Area)

- Go to Burlington
- Turn off at the Brant Street turnoff
- At the end of the off ramp turn left on to Brant Street
- Follow Brant Street South through the downtown area to Lake Shore Blvd.
- Brant Street ends at Lake Shore Blvd. and the Venture Inn.

International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.

Have you ever tried to look up information about a lilac name? First you have to go to the Tentative Check List and then to the Addenda and Corrigenda and then to the 1994 update and then... Cumbersome at best, completely confusing at the worst. Now, all has been swept away. Our Registrar, Freek Vrugtman has pulled all the information together into a single computerized list that will now be available in three different ways.

1. On the Royal Botanical Gardens web site (www.rbg.ca). At the moment you'll have to scroll down to the list. Later on, the lilac list will have its own address and may be accessed directly. This will be the absolute, up-to-date list of lilac cultivar names and as Freek continues to work and tease out the truth, often from conflicting data, the changes will be made onto RBG's web page as needed. So look up the name or fact to be checked; if seeing it is enough the job is done or you can ask your printer to print that page. If, however, you need more information or want a hard copy of many pages, go to the second way the Register is available.

2. A hard copy of the full Register complete with appendices (ca.324 pages) will be available from the Royal Botanical Gardens at a price just high enough to recover their costs. At this time the preliminary estimates of cost are these: \$25.00 Canadian (\$17.50 U.S.) plus shipping and

handling charges of \$5.00 Canadian for addresses in Canada, and \$10.00 Canadian (\$7.00 U.S.) for addresses outside Canada. There will be about 25 copies of the book available at the convention.

Information on ordering additional copies will also be published in the summer issue of **Lilacs**.

If you'd like to massage the Register to fit personal needs, go to the third way that the Cultivar Checklist will be made available.

3. The Royal Botanical Gardens will have copies of the Register on floppy disc available at a cost of \$17.00 Canadian (\$12.00 U.S.) plus \$3.00 (for everybody) for shipping and handling. This is a very economical way to purchase the Checklist if you can do your own printing.

This new **International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.** is the result of much work by many people. If you wish to gauge the amount of new information in it, compare the thickness of the 1976 Tentative Checklist with this new Register. It will show you clearly how much work has been done.

An Inventory Database of Lilacs and its functions

by Freek Vrugtman, Lilac Registrar

Introduction

The **International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.** now in preparation is designed to list all known cultivar (cv.) names of lilacs and provide background information on these cultivars (cvs.); it does not report which of the many cvs. are actually in cultivation.

The nomenclature of cultivated plants is regulated by the **International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1995 (ICNCP-1995)**.

The first such code came into being in 1952/53. One of the provisions of the Code is for the establishment of **International Registration Authorities (IRAs) for Cultivar Names**.

The Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, was designated the **IRA for Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.** in 1958 by the Fifteenth International Horticultural Congress. The late John C. Wister was appointed the first Registrar of the IRA for lilacs.

[IRAs register cv. names, they do not register the plants. In other words, these are not plant breeder's rights, plant patent, or royalty registrations; cv. names must not be confused with trademarks. IRAs do not judge the merits of the cvs. though they may report awards received.]

The Publication of **Lilacs for America** [Oct. 1953] has been accepted as the starting date in lilac cv. nomenclature. **Lilacs for America**, the Report of 1953 Lilac Survey Committee of the American Association of Botanical Garden and Arboretums, was compiled and edited under the

chairmanship of John Wister. Lilac cv. names listed in **Lilacs for America-1953** are considered "registered" under the provisions of the Code. However, there are exceptions.

Most of the entries in **Lilacs for America-1953** have notations showing in which nursery(ies) or lilac collection(s) a particular cv. is being grown at the time of the survey. A few entries lack such a notation, which means that someone selected and named a new lilac, but (A) had not yet propagated and distributed plants of the new cultivar at the time of the survey and may have done so after 1953, or (B) had not propagated the new selection and never did so at a later date.

Purpose of an Inventory Database

An **Inventory Database** would provide the Registrar with an additional tool for locating background information on lilac cvs. already in the International Register, and a possible source of hitherto unlisted names.

An **Inventory Database** would provide information on the assortment of lilacs available from commercial nurseries and micro-propagation laboratories, and on possible sources of propagation material of cvs. currently not available in commerce.

Setting Up The Inventory Database

The **International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.** will provide the basic **alphabetic list of cv. names.**

Possible sources of information on "cvs. in cultivation" are:

collection inventory lists,

including those published in **ILS publications,**

nursery catalogues and price lists; and

other **summaries** such as:

A catalog of Cultivated Woody Plants of the SE United States [1994],

DataScape Guide to Commercial Nomenclature (USA) [various editions],

The Plant Finder (UK) [various editions],

Anderson Horticultural Library, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum [various editions (title not on hand), Richard Isaacson, compiler].

The ILS Editor and the Lilac Registrar will assist by supplying photocopied lists.

Recording the **literature references** and related information is very important; this is a bona fide research project, future users must be able to locate the original information used and referred to. Using poorly documented sources is extremely frustrating and always leaves one stuck in a dead-end.

Alison Brown, an ILS member from Gray, Maine, has agreed to act as Database Coordinator for this project and you'll hear more from her as the project develops.

European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

At the moment, there is so little time available for writing or for correspondence. The Spring, here, is very early and February has brought us the weather we should expect in April. Many lilacs have already opened their flower buds so I live in dread of the return of the air-frosts which caused so many problems last year. Only now can I fully appreciate the extent of the damage done, particularly to the plants in containers. Not only were they checked by the frost lesions but by the dry conditions of the long summer drought which followed. If I have ignored requests for propagating material please bear with me. Requests tend to be for the rarest plants and these, usually, are the ones still in containers and are the ones which suffered the most. At the moment, my priority must be the care and preservation of these plants plus all the necessary work in preparing for the garden opening. I will catch up with all correspondence when I can get my hands free.

As a further complication, albeit a pleasant one, I have been consulted about two forthcoming articles on lilacs; one in the *Suffolk County* magazine which is a local "glossy", and the other for the *BBC Gardeners' World* magazine which is a highly influential "national".

A parcel of plants from Ole Heide has revealed two more cultivars from Vasily Gorb in Kiev. One is *S.v.* 'Lesya Ukrainka' bred by V. Klimenko *et al* and which means, (I think - but am not certain) "Forest of Ukraine", and should be a single lilac - purple. The other is *S.v.* 'Mulatka' which is listed by Anna Pikaleva (**Lilacs**: Vol 23 No 4) as *SVI* bred by Mikhailov and Ribakina. The politically incorrect name means, literally, 'Female Mulatto' but I think I might have an inkling as to its derivation. During the Crimean War of 1854-56 when Britain and France fought Russia, the principals of modern nursing were famously instituted by Florence Nightingale. Less well known was the work of a Russian battlefield heroine whose name I have not been able to discover but who was, if I recall correctly, known as "the Mulatto of Sebastopol," so I wonder if the name celebrates that particular nurse. Perhaps someone with a better grasp of Russian/Ukrainian history than I have could help. Once again, though, I must thank Ole Heide and Vasily Gorb for their exceptional work in making available to us these little known cultivars. I will disseminate them to the big collections when they have put on sufficient growth.

I have frequently been asked to list what I think are the best ten or twenty lilacs. No matter how hard I try, I cannot escape the reality that my favorite lilac is the one I am looking at at any particular time. What

I will do with each future column is describe my reactions to a lilac which I think should be better known. I began in the last edition with *S.v. 'Gortenziya'*.

Syringa ×hyacinthiflora 'Patricia'. Dr. Isabella Preston, Ottawa, Pre 1942.

This forms a nicely rounded shrub that is not too vigorous and with a nice, broad mid-green leaf. From dark mauve buds which betray its 'Lamartine' ancestry, there open semi-double florets which are a lighter tone than the buds but which soon fade to a pretty pale blue. The outer corolla lobes are broad and slightly reflexed, but what makes this lilac so heart-meltingly special is the tiny inner corolla which is tied like a white knot oh-so demurely over the eye. With light fragrance she is an unassuming and understated lilac which one could easily pass by and not notice - unless one moves in close - that she is, quite simply, exquisite.

Finally, we were delighted to meet Dutch Life-member Ad Vurens and his family when they called here last November whilst on their way to a holiday location nearby.

Norman's Farm

Wyverstone, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 4SF, England

The Legend of Syringa

One day, Pan was wandering in ancient Arcady when he saw a beautiful nymph. He was roused by the sight of her and gave chase but the nymph fled through the woods until her retreat was halted by a river. Rather than submit, she took one last look at the green and bountiful world and turned herself into a reed.

The disconsolate Pan cut the reed and, as he kissed it, his lovelorn sigh breathed across its rim and produced an haunting note. He fashioned the reed into a set of pipes and his destiny for ever more was to play his melancholy airs to the lonely shepherds in the hills.

The Greeks called that nymph *Syrinx* but to the Romans she was *Syringa*, and this was the name Linnaeus assigned to the lilac which, because its pith filled stems could be bored hollow, had been known since the time of Gerard and Parkinson as the "Blew Pipe Tree".

Submitted by Colin Chapman

Remembering Ken Berdeen

by his granddaughter

Lynette Mascioli

My grandfather was the world to me. We always had a special bond. It was like our hearts were linked together. When we visited on weekends and during summers I followed him everywhere. As I watched him grow old, I tried not to think of life without him. Ken Berdeen died on December 17, 1987.

During the next few years, I thought often about a conversation we had once working together in his cellar. Grampy could fix anything and I loved his cellar. There were school pictures dating back to Kindergarten of all us grandchildren tacked everywhere, among diesel engine calendars and hung on tool hooks. He had tools and machines and motors to do everything. But the best thing about the cellar was the way it smelled. It still smells the same, like old tools, the dirt floor, machine oil, and potatoes in the potato bin. We were talking about lilac stuff and Gramps said, "You know Lyn, when I'm gone, none of this will matter". I looked at him and I felt exactly what he was feeling. I told him of course it would matter. He explained that he had learned so much over so many years he couldn't possibly write it all down for someone to continue. I told him right then that I would make sure his work wasn't lost.

I didn't just say it to make him feel better. I knew the tremendous responsibility of what I had said and I meant it. He, of course, told me that I was the most special thing in the whole world, etc., etc., but that I had more important things to do. I would date boys, go to college, get married and have a family of my own. Even though I was in my teens, I knew the enormity of what I had said. Knew I didn't know half enough to keep his gardens going. Knew then that I should have written down all he ever said and ever explained to me. Knew I didn't have the tools, the know-how, the money, or help to do any of it. But I still knew that I would do my best to keep my promise.

When Grampy died, it was bad timing. My parents had just separated, I was working full time in Boston, MA and finishing my Bachelor's degree nights. Then, during the summer of 1989, I married. My grandmother came from Maine to attend and even took a bow during introductions. (She never went anywhere). Towards the end of my stint at Boston University, I began thinking more and more about my pledge to my grandfather. Soon, I would have more time to myself. I started thinking about the gardens in Kennebunk. They had deteriorated so much in four years with no care. I talked to my grandmother about the lilacs and told her I wanted to care for the gardens and try to market Berdeen's lilacs. She gave her blessings and I think it made her happy. In the Spring of

1991, I graduated from B.U., Gramp's Gardens was started, and the WORK began.

My major goal was to let people know I was around and Berdeen Lilacs were available. During that first year I started mowing and clearing the acres of land that had grown wild for four years, just trying to get to the lilac plants. I also began cataloging plants, photographing blooms, and taking inventories. (This was all done without a lawn mower, water or irrigation, major tools.)

That next year I continued doing all the above and started propagating Berdeen hybrids. (I was into growing things as I was pregnant with my first child.) I used the diagrams in Father Fiala's book, **Lilacs**, and some plastic bags, pots and sticks and began propagating the Berdeen collection.

I managed to work this way, (not seeing much progress and pulling all the favors I could from my family to baby-sit my daughter Sarah), until 1994 when Evie King called me. She got my name from Walter Oakes, a friend of my grandfather's and fellow lilac enthusiast.

Evie King and Roger Coggeshall comprise a company called Syringa Plus. Evie and Roger knew of the Berdeen collection and were happy to hear it was being cared for. We didn't actually meet until 1995. They came to my house in Beverly to meet my mother and me because I now had another baby daughter, Alyssa. We discussed our goals, the Berdeen lilacs, Ken Berdeen and the work I had done to date. We agreed that our biggest concern should be restoring the Berdeen Collection. They would work with me to reach that goal, then they would evaluate Berdeen lilacs.

Since 1995, Evie, Roger and I have worked together on the Berdeen Collection. They have supported and understood me and my intentions when no one else would or could.

Today I have restored much of the gardens in Kennebunk. The plants are healthier and in better shape than they have been in years. I still have totally uncleared areas of lilacs, and there are still many, many things to be done. I look forward to my continued work in Gramp's gardens. In the future, my Mom hopes to retire to the house she grew up in, giving my daughters the opportunity to visit their grandmother and Gramp's lilacs on weekends and summers the same way I did.

To celebrate Ken's work, "A Lilac Walk" is held each year during Lilac Season. This year our tour will be held on Saturday, May 30, from 10 - 4. Please come to share stories and information. We would love to see you.

*Gramp's Gardens
5 King Terrace, Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 927-7641*

Our Work with the Ken Berdeen Lilacs in Kennebunk, Maine

Evie King & Roger Coggeshall, Syringa Plus

We initially visited Ken Berdeen's Lilac collection in March of 1995 with Lynette. Most of the plants were overgrown, badly crowded and shaded by large pines and hardwood seedlings. This resulted in the mature lilacs growing very poorly.

After viewing the collection our plan was unanimous. The first objective was to reproduce all of Ken's hybrids growing in Kennebunk. Great care has been taken to propagate only those plants that we believe to be true to name. All efforts have been taken to preserve and record all original labels. Along with the named hybrids there are many other unnamed seedlings that should be evaluated.

Our ultimate goal is to distribute a complete representation of Ken's named plants to selected Arboreta and lilac collections in the United States and Canada, including young plants in Kennebunk. When established these plants can be evaluated for worthiness. Once they are evaluated the chosen few can be distributed to the public.

Today we are close to this purpose with some varieties and yet far away with others. This is partly due to very tired stock plants. However, the vigor is returning to the main collection due to the hard work of Lynette. She has spent most of her spare time cutting out the underbrush, pruning, liming, etc. We believe she came by her enthusiasm and drive honestly.

We have successfully propagated all of the named selections in Kennebunk. Max Peterson has been instrumental in our efforts. He has, to our knowledge, the most extensive collection of Ken's plants. He has been very generous in supplying us with propagation material of cultivars we did not have in Kennebunk.

Last winter we searched Ken's house and shed looking for additional information about his collection. We found more notebooks and many letters, plots, etc., but we are still looking for more documentation on his crosses. Any information, such as letters, photos, stories, or observations that you may have would be most helpful and great to add to our files.

If anyone has Ken Berdeen lilac hybrids we would appreciate knowing about them. Plants names that we have reference to and have been unable to locate are 'Berdien's Chocolate', 'Father Patrick McCabe', 'Gwen Marie', 'Joyce Burke', 'Kathleen Cowen', and 'Stephanie Rowe.'

The lilac Ken named 'Walter's Pink' is still alive on Ken's property. This is the only plant we have seen in bloom and know to be true to name. We have finally been able to get it to root. If anyone has a 'Walter's Pink', we would love to be able to collect cuttings from a more vigorous plant. It is truly a beautiful lilac!

Ken Berdeen Lilacs

Listed below are the references of Ken Berdeen hybrid names from our notes. There are some we do not have and a few we believe to be extinct. We are soliciting any further information you may have.

Ken Berdeen - Syringa vulgaris

'1001'	'Irene'
'Amanda Bergen'	'James Berdeen'
'Arlene Welch'	'Jefferson Berdeen'
'Berdween's Chocolate'	'Jennifer Morrison'
'Beth Morrison'	'John Kennedy'
'Betsy Bowman'	'Joyce Burke'
'Brent Sirois'	'Julie Ann Berdeen'
'Carolyn Bergen'	'Kate Bergen'
'Carolyn Howland'	'Kathleen Cowan'
'Chris'	'Kathy McGuire'
'Claudia Berdeen'	'Ken Berdeen'
'Cynthia'	'Kenneth W. Berdeen 2nd'
'Dana Horton'	'Lee Jewett Walker'
'Diana Abbott' -	'Lucy Bergen'
'Eleanor Berdeen'	'Lynette Sirios'
'Elizabeth Files' -	'Maurice Lockwood'
Renamed 'Olive Mae Cummings'	'Max Peterson'
'Father Patrick McCabe'	'Mrs. Nadeau'
'For Sharon'	'Olive Mae Cummings'
'Grace Wyman'	'Stephanie Rowe'
'Gwen Marie'	'Walter's Pink'

Before Planting Lilacs Consider These

by Robert B. Clark

Meredith, New Hampshire

Choosing the right spot in your garden to plant your newly acquired lilac requires the consideration of exposure, soil fertility and adequate moisture for the lilac's best development. The vantage point in your landscape is of secondary importance. Since the major attraction of lilacs is their color and fragrance, each of passing interest, once the altogether brief season of bloom is over you are left with uniformity of size and shape, and a monotone of green foliage the rest of summer.

SUNSHINE. Lilacs grow in the open naturally. Select a spot or section in your garden which offers full exposure to sunshine, or for direct sunshine at least six hours during sunny days. Free circulation of air is important also. In prairie sites windbreaks might be advisable under constant or prolonged windy periods. Under shady conditions lilacs fail to develop flower buds. Watch that neighboring trees do not encroach upon your lilacs causing them to grow spindly or misshapen and sparsely blooming.

SOIL FERTILITY. Lilacs develop a system of primary and fine roots, thus indicting their need for nutrients. Your garden therefore should afford ample nutrients. In New England I like to provide each shrub with a fistful of 5-10-5 each springtime before leaves unfold. Also because in nature lilacs grow on limestone outcrops - I've seen them in the Balkans - I like also to spread another fistful of ground limestone [agricultural lime] around each lilac, but allow a week or ten days' interval between lime and fertilizer applications.

MOISTURE. The lilac belt of North America receives about forty inches of precipitation, evenly distributed, yearly, amounting to between three and four inches per month. Established plants are able to withstand drought for several weeks. However, newly planted lilacs require irrigation daily when rainfall is lacking. Wilting is a sign that newly planted lilacs are undergoing stress. Take care not to wet leaves lest mildew develops.

LOCATION. A mature lilac is a large shrub capable of spreading up to twenty feet across and reaching a height of ten feet or more, sometimes a lot more. I suggest that if you wish to grow a small collection you visit a public park or arboretum that features lilacs and observe the spacing allowed for each plant, especially the distance between plants. If, on the other hand, you have a specimen lilac, I suggest that, before digging any hole, you drive a stick into the ground and observe from several vantage points. You will then determine the most suitable site for your living treasure.

Edgar Anderson, Geneticist

by Robert Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

You can look at the record in the American Men of Science, so I will tell a few personal anecdotes. He was largely responsible for my coming to St. Louis in 1938. Dr. Anderson was, in my opinion, the renaissance man for his enthusiasm, vigor, his charity and imagination to others. And he knew his stuff, which was applied or economic botany. Moreover, his students generally have made their marks, except the present one.

He wrote with clarity and voluminously about plants. Two books came from his typewriter, the technical **Introgressive Hybridization** and the popular **Plants, Man and Life**.



Edgar Anderson

Dr. Anderson took his wife, Dorothy, and daughter, Phoebe, to the Balkans in the 1930s. He brought back plants adaptable to the climate of St. Louis: boxwood, ivy and lilac, among others. Buxus 'Vardar Vally' is available in nurseries today. On Mt. Domogled he collected a compact or slow growing lilac, two specimens of which I found growing in Highland Botanical Park under the name 'nana Anderson.' Since the epithet nana applied to a different lilac, I chose 'Mt. Domogled' as a replacement.

St. Louis has a hybrid climate situated near the center of the country. Spring comes early and yields soon to a hot humid summer. Autumn, too, is brief, giving way to an open winter. Dr. Anderson found that Lemoine's 'Lamartine' lilacs were best adapted to the St. Louis springtime because they came early enough to avoid the heats of late May. Winters are cold enough to cure flower buds.

Incidentally, he succeeded Dr. George T. Moore as director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and as Engelmann professor in the Henry Shaw School of Botany, Washington University.

John Dunbar, 1859-1927

by Robert Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

Ten years ago when ILS held its sixteenth annual meeting at Rochester, New York, the Monroe County parks department published an eight-page booklet entitled "John Dunbar, Rochester Plantman."

Dunbar had come to Rochester in April 1891 as assistant superintendent of parks under the civil engineer Calvin C. Laney. He held that position until he retired in April, 1926. In those thirty-five years he embellished some half-dozen city parks. Today he is remembered pre-eminently for his work with lilacs.

The lilac collection at Highland Park was planted in the Spring of 1894. Two years later announcement was made in local newspapers that one-hundred varieties of lilac could be seen in bloom. Each year thereafter interest in the lilac collection grew. Crowds estimated between 60,000 and 75,000 visited on "Lilac Sunday" 1918.

Meanwhile, Dunbar planted seed from a dozen choice lilacs, and by 1916 he introduced seven seedlings, among them 'Adelaide Dunbar', 'A.B. Lamberton', 'President Lincoln', and 'General Sherman'.

Dunbar was indeed a plantsman, a speaker and an author as well. His opus major an article in *Florists Exchange and Horticultural Trade World* of September 23, 1923, entitled "The latest news about the lilac." Of 'General Sherman' he wrote "immense many shouldered upright clusters of single flowers of which the color might be described as creamy lavender. We consider this perhaps one of the most beautiful lilacs in cultivation." William Faulkner, his lifelong friend, eulogized: "a brainy man, practical, executive and studious, and loved his work and plunged with intense fondness into its technical details."

Planting and Transporting Lilacs

by Robert Clark, Meredith, New Hampshire

Among the fine arts, gardening alone uses living materials. The artist must visualize ultimate sizes and shapes of his plants. At Birchwood, my lakeshore hermitage, I am constantly relocating my shrubs (read: lilacs) from a once suitable site to a more accommodating one. Because they fail to bloom satisfactorily, or are crowded among larger plants, or the site is too shady, or some other horticultural reason, my lilacs must be transplanted.

Six-Foot Lilacs

Since I do my own transplanting using a wheelbarrow for transportation, I do not attempt moving lilacs more than six feet in height. The first thing I do is determine the best site available and dig the hole which should be twice as wide as the root system but no deeper than the depth of the ball. Next I return to the lilac I intend to transplant, tie a streamer to the branch which presents the best aspect, and wrap spreading canes with big stout twine to facilitate digging. Encircle the lilac to a diameter of about three feet, plunging the blade of the spade (or shovel) to its depth and pry out the lilac preserving as much soil about the roots as possible. If you move the lilac a short distance across the garden it will not be necessary to wrap the roots in burlap or plastic. At the new location make sure that the streamer is oriented properly, tamp in the backfill with your boot heel or the handle of your D-handle shovel. Leave a berm to catch irrigation and rainwater. Some gardeners, instead of tamping the backfill, puddle the roots in a mud slurry. Some gardeners sprinkle a handful of ground limestone in the bottom of the hole before setting the lilac in place. Some gardeners dissolve a potent fertilizer (tsp. 10-10-10 in a gallon of water) for a starter solution to promote root growth. Some gardeners spread a mulch at the base of the lilac to conserve moisture. All gardeners should provide TLC for the first couple of years - especially in dry seasons.

Container Grown Lilacs

For container grown lilacs I prepare the hole first. This should be as deep as the container is tall and slightly large in diameter. Remove the container and inspect the root system. If the lilac is potbound, loosen the roots at the bottom and sides spreading them out to avoid girdling. Allow three to four years for the lilac to reach its flowering stage.

Friendship Lilacs

Rootsuckers from a fellow gardener should be lined out in a nursery for three or four years before outplanting. A liquefied starter solution (10-10-10) is advisable and tender loving care should be given these precious treasures until vigorous growth shows that a good root system has formed beneath them.

Lilacs at the Gilberts

Recently Sabra and Bob Gilbert sent a list of the ca. 135 cultivars of lilacs that they are growing on their property, Pie In The Sky, located near Cooperstown, NY. They also sent in a picture of the family. (See back cover) If others would send a list of their lilacs and a picture of the family, we could do a series of "families and their lilacs."

Lilacs at "Pie in the Sky"

'Adelaide Dunbar'	'L'Oncle Tom'	'René Jarry-Desloges'
'Agincourt Beauty'	'Lucie Baltet'	'Rochester'
'Albert Holden'	'Ludwig Spaeth'	'Romance'
'Alphonse Lavallee'	'Macrostachya'	'Ruhm von Horstenstein'
'A. M. Brand'	'Marechal Foch'	'Sarah Sands'
'Ami Schott'	'Marie Finon'	'Sensation'
'Andre Csizik'	'Massena'	'Serene'
'Anne Shiach'	'Miss Ellen Wilmont'	'Silver King'
'Arch McKean'	'Monge'	'Slater's Elegance'
'Belle de Nancy'	'Mont Blanc'	'Sovietskaya Artika'
'Blanche Sweet'	'Monument'	'Vestale'
'Capitaine Baltet'	'Mme. Antoine Buchner'	'Victor Lemoine'
'Charles Joly'	'Mme. Casimer Perier'	'Violetta'
'Clyde Heard'	'Mme. Lemoine'	'Volcan'
'Carley'	'Monique Lemoine'	'Wedgwood Blue'
'Congo'	'Mrs. Edward Harding'	'William Robinson'
'Dapple Dawn'	'Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt'	'Znamya Lenya'
'Decaisne'	'Mrs. W. E. Marshall'	'Zulu'
'De Miribel'	'Oakes Double White'	
'Dwight Eisenhower'	'Ongi Dombassa'	'Alice Eastwood'
'Edward J. Gardner'	'Ongi Moskv'y'	'Annabel'
'Firmament'	'Olympiada Kolesnikova'	'Assessippi'
'Flower City'	'Ostrander'	'Buffon'
'Frank Klager'	'Paul Deschanel'	'Esther Staley'
'Galina Ulanova'	'Pol Robson'	'Excel'
'Gilbert'	'President Franklin D. Roosevelt'	'Gertrude Leslie'
'Glory'	'President Grevy'	'Hyacinthiflora Plena'
'Gortenziya'	'Primrose'	'Leonore'
'General Pershing'	'Professor E. H. Wilson'	'Lewis Maddock'
'Hugo Koster'	'Poltava'	'Maiden Blush'
'Jeanne d'Arc'	'President Lincoln'	'Mary C. Bingham'
'Katherine Havemeyer'	'Paul Therion'	'Nokomis'
'Kosmos'	'President Poincare'	'Pocahontas'
'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'	'President Roosevelt'	'Louvois'
'Lady Lindsay'	'Priscilla'	'Sunset'
'Leon Gambetta'	'Reamur'	'The Bride'
		'Vauban'

'Alice Rose Foster'
'Esterka'
'Donald Wyman'
'Hiawatha'
'Isabelle'
'James Macfarlane'
'Jessica'
'Nike'

'Telemina'
'Ursula'

'Cheyene'
'Emodi Aurea'
'Lutece'
'Miss Canada'
'Miss Kim'

'Olivia'
'Fall Foliage'
'Prairial'
'Prophecy'
'Rothomagensis'
'Royalty'
'Tigerstedtii'
'Hirsuta'

ILS Distribution

'Prairie Petite' is a true dwarf reaching only 3-4 feet in height and width over a 10-12 year period. This lilac belongs to the *vulgaris* family and has single pink florets. It was first developed in 1974 by introducing radiation to a seed. It had great potential for those wishing a short hedge with their favorite flowers. It also opens up the opportunity to plant them in our landscape around and amongst our bedding plants. It was developed in Nebraska. 'Prairie Petite' will be available in a 4 inch pot this summer. Price for Canadian customers will be \$13.00 and U.S. will be \$9.50.

The second lilac for distribution is *S. hyacinthiflora* 'Evangeline.' A Canadian lilac by Dr. Frank Skinner of Manitoba, it is a very hardy lilac in the double magenta category and was hybridized in 1934. As double hyacinthifloras are rare, 'Evangeline' does have its place in the garden. The fall foliage becomes bronzy red and the florets are highly fragrant. Buds are of a darker pink that open to a soft whitish pink color. The florets are reflexed on the plant.

It will be available as a 1 gallon plant, 10-12 inches in height. Prices for Canadian members are \$15.00 and \$13.00 U.S. funds. All plants are mailed at the beginning of the week to arrive before the weekend.

These plants will be shipped in the 3rd week of August. If you have specific dates after this time please mention them on the order sheet.

All prices cover postal costs and phytosanitary certificates. Canadian customers please add respective taxes.

Summer Perennials

by Stephen G. Sullivan

Regional Horticulture Specialist, The Brickman Group, Ltd.

The past ten years have seen a surge in the use of perennial flowers in both commercial and residential landscapes. Perennial nurseries have sprung up throughout the country and these plants are now even available at large outlets such as K-Mart and Wal-Mart. Herbaceous perennials have been popular in Europe for years. Hybridization and new introductions have increased their popularity in other countries, as well as the United States. The need for plants that will provide color in the landscape and require less maintenance than annuals has fueled the perennial craze from coast to coast. While it is true that some perennials will come back year after year without the need of replanting or extensive maintenance, the notion that they do not require any maintenance and will bloom all summer, such as annuals, is a misconception. Many perennials require dividing on a regular basis; every three years for *Asters*. Coral Bells (*Heuchera sanguinea*) and *Delphinium* are short-lived. Most perennials, such as *Iris* and *Peony*, have only one blooming period of a few weeks in late spring. They are best when combined with perennials that bloom at alternate times or with annuals which will provide color when the perennials are out of bloom. One of the biggest contributions many of these plants give to the landscape is not their flowers, but rather their size and texture. The large leaves of *Hosta* can measure over a foot in width and are available in blue, green, yellow-leafed forms and variegated cultivars that have white or yellow edging on the leaves. *Ferns* adapt well to shaded areas where few annuals will survive and have finely textured leaves that add interest to the summer landscape.

A list of a few of the more popular perennials recommended for use in most landscape situations follows.

Summer Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*): Starting to bloom in June in most areas and continuing sporadically into the fall if the old flowers are deadheaded, *Summer Phlox* is one of the longest blooming perennials. Mildew is a serious problem with many *Phlox* cultivars and sprays may be needed. *Phlox* 'David' is a white flowering variety that is mildew resistant.

Black-Eyed-Susan (*Rudbeckia* 'Goldsturm'): This is another long blooming perennial starting in July and continuing into September. The yellow flowers are stunning on this plant in the late summer and mix well with ornamental grasses making it one of the most popular perennials.

Plantain Lily (*Hosta*): This perennial was popular years ago, then went out of favor as being "too common." Now it is considered "the king of the

shade" due to its luxuriant foliage and lily-like flowers. *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Francis Williams' with gold-edge leaves is the most popular *Hosta* sold in this country. Slugs can be a problem in certain years, but selection of some of the thicker, coarse leaved varieties such as *Hosta sieboldiana* will lessen this type of damage.

Perennial Salvia (*Salvia* × *superba*): One of the most common perennials in the landscape, perennial *Salvia* is tolerant of dry, sunny locations and produces flowers in shades of blue, violet and white. If the old flowers are removed on a weekly basis, *Salvia* will bloom from early June into most of the summer. 'May Night' has indigo flowers while 'Blue Queen' has violet.

Daylily (*Hemerocallis*): Daylilies have come a long way from the common orange-colored variety commonly found along roadways in much of this country. Easily hybridized, *Daylilies* are now available in almost all the colors of the rainbow except true blue. Tolerant of most any planting situations from sun to part shade, or soils that are wet or on the dry side, this long-lived perennial rarely needs dividing and is not troubled by pests. The cultivar 'Stella d' Oro' is popular due to its dwarf habit and longer blooming period throughout the summer.

Like a Rose

A dog may be man's best friend, but that doggie smell isn't the most popular scent to have around the house. Well, there may be a remedy on the market that could reduce the number of bath nights for Old Rex - Doggie perfume! That's the craze in California right now, with numerous pet shops selling a scent called "Puppy Love." Apparently, the perfume is a blend of citronella, pine, orange, **lilac** and rose. And get this...word has it that a perfume for cats is next. They're going to call it "Paws"

Coffee News 1997
Durham Issue, Vol. 2, No. 19

Tips For Beginners

Why are lilacs so popular?

Everyone knows that the lilac is popular. Everyone has a lilac, had a lilac or remembers a lilac. But to explain that popularity in a nice succinct paragraph is not so easy. Below you will find contributions, in no particular order, from half a dozen lilac enthusiasts. Do you have additional reasons? If you do and would send them to the editor, he promises to print an additional list in the next issue of **Lilacs**.

I don't know why lilacs are so popular. It's a mystery. And maybe that's part of people's fascination with them. Offhand, I'd say people can't help but love the combination of pretty colors and delightful fragrance. Everyone seems to like the fact that they can easily be grown in a great many regions of the world. There are few problems prone to attack them, and they require literally no work, once they are established, to survive and produce some annual bloom, although those who seriously cultivate them know that much effort can be involved to coax the best and most consistent quality flowers.

Nostalgia has something to do with their popularity, I suppose. They were always nearby in my surroundings. Perhaps my first experience with them was to play around a shrub in my parent's backyard. They are friendly, they don't have prickles like roses, so we could retrieve kites from their branches without ouches. The flower clusters are large, especially to a little kid. Snapping off some flowers between home and school, or enroute home from a playmate's yard is simple, and a sure way to please Mom, until she asks where they came from, and it wasn't your own yard! Bees and butterflies like the flowers, too, so kids can find lively activity amongst the blooms - even if it's to include an almost frightening screech from nearby nesting birds, who also favor shrubs. The sun seems to like lilacs, too, with special illumination and shadows. And the wind likes to play with the stems, easily making the plant seem more alive with movement. The rain likes lilacs because the droplets look like jewels on the petals and add luster and color intensity to the other parts of the bush. The air enjoys lilacs, as they make it sweet, and even darkness can't hide the presence of lilacs, especially after a spring shower.

The season is spring...a time of new life...of celebration...of lilacs. Often big occasions are saved until warmth opens the flowers. Births,

graduations, and weddings frequently are at lilac bloom time, so it's natural to recall happy and important events with each whiff of a lilac.

Availability and diversity is being noticed more now at retail garden stores and prices are appealing. Several fine mail-order lilac nurseries make it easier than ever to acquire lilacs...so their popularity increases. I've said it before in print - lilacs are popular because they are the one shrub which blooms at the time when you can get outdoors without a sweater.

My answer is this, "What goes around comes around." Lilacs enjoyed great popularity around the turn of the century and that interest continued until the great depression (1930-1950), when the lilac fell from favor. However, those with a desire to improve the floral display continued their work and beginning in the late 1960s until the present we find an ever growing number of people wanting to include the beauty and aroma of the lilac in their landscape. Let's go, ILS. Let the growers know that we want correctly named lilacs so that the consumer will know what the plant color, flower type and aroma will be when the plant blooms "down the road."

They make us remember Grandma. Lilacs are promoted by the nicest people in the world...who call themselves I.L.S.'ers or members of the International Lilac Society, which everyone is welcome to join, and which is one big family of lilacs enthusiasts from all around the globe. No wonder lilacs are so popular!

What Is It About Lilacs?

It's the color.
Yes, and the heady aroma
So strong, so pure,
as clean as the
recent snow.

But even more...
It's the message.
Each tiny blossom
joins all the others
to convince me
Spring is really here.

*-Virginia Kohli
Kingston, NY*

Research Abstracts

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

EVANS, M.R.; ILES, J.K. **Growth of *Viburnum dentatum* and *Syringa* × *prestoniae* 'Donald Wyman' in *Sphagnum* peat and coir dust-based substrates.** *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* (1997) 15 (3) 156-159 [En, 22 ref.] Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, USA.

Bare-root viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) were grown in 25:0:75, 50:0:50, 75:0:25, 100:0:0, 0:25:75, 0:50:50, 0:75:25, and 0:100:0 peat:coir:sand (by vol) substrates, and preston lilac (*Syringa* × *prestoniae* cv. Donald Wyman) were grown in 25:0:65:10, 50:0:40:10, 75:0:15:10, 0:25:65:10, 0:50:40:10, and 0:75:15:10 peat:coir:bark:sand (v/v) substrates over two seasons. After one season of growth, viburnum grown in 25% and 50% coir were taller than plants grown in comparable peat-based substrates, and overall, plants grown in coir-based substrates were taller than plants grown in peat-based substrates. Lilac plants grown in coir-based substrates were of similar heights to plants grown in peat-based substrates. After two seasons, viburnum grown in 100% coir were wider than plants grown in 100% peat. No significant difference occurred between plants grown in 25% and 50% peat or coir. No significant difference occurred in shoot fresh mass between viburnum plants grown in coir and peat-based substrates. However, those grown in 50% and 100% coir had greater root fresh mass than those grown in comparable peat based substrates. Overall, root fresh mass was greater for plants grown in coir-based substrates than in peat-based substrates. After two seasons, height and root fresh mass were not significantly different between substrates for lilac. Plant width was greater for plants grown in 25% and 50% coir than for plants grown in 25% or 50% peat. Plants grown in 75% coir had greater shoot fresh mass than plants grown in 75% peat.

Horticultural Abstracts 1998

Vol. 68, No. 1, Page 83

ŠEBÁNEK, J.; KLÍCOVÁ, S. **[The abscission of petioles as affected by benzolinon and IAA applied distally or proximally to the abscission layer.]** Odlučování rapíku pod vlivem benzolinonu a IAA aplikovaných distálně nebo proximálně k odlučovací vrstvě. *Acta Universitatis Agriculturae et Silviculturae Mendelianae Brunensis* (1995) 43 (1/4) 41-47 [Cs, en, 13 ref.]

Benzolinon and/or IAA in 0.2% lanolin paste were applied either distally or proximally to the abscission layer of petiole stumps of 4 tree species. Benzolinon was the most efficient inhibitor of abscission when applied distally to *Hydrangea macrophylla* and proximally to *Ligustrum vulgare*. Distal application of both benzolinon and IAA inhibited abscission in *Hydrangea macrophylla*, *Ligustrum vulgare* and *Castanea sativa*, while proximal application of both growth regulators to *Acer pseudoplatanus* had a marked stimulating effect only. In a separate study with *Syringa vulgaris* 0.05% ethep [ethephon] accelerated the abscission of intact leaves, while benzolinon in 0.2% paste inhibited abscission more than IAA.

Plant Growth Regulator Abstracts

Vol 23, No. 3 Sept 1997, Page 171

WITMER, R. K.; GERHOLD, H. D.; ULRICH, E. R. **Tree shelters accelerate slow growing species in nurseries.** *Journal of Arboriculture* (1997) **23** (1) 40-48 [en, fr, 18 ref.] School of Forest Resources, Penn State University, PA, USA.

Two experiments in Pennsylvania, USA, investigated the effects of tree shelters on height, caliper, and diameter growth of liners of 14 species and cultivars of ornamental trees (including *Mangolia stellata* and *Cornus kousa* × *C. florida* cv. Celestial; other genera tested were *Acer*, *Carpinus*, *Cercis*, *Syringa*, *Malus* and *Prunus*). In the first year at one nursery all nine varieties had greater height growth inside shelters, averaging 325% that of controls grown not in tree shelters, thus adding 1.1 feet (33 cm) to 2.3 feet (70 cm) to their height. After two years at the other nursery, plants had increased height growth inside shelters ranging from 111% to 484% of controls, or 0.3 feet (10 cm) to 4.2 feet (128 cm). Caliper growth was either adversely affected by shelters (by as much as 0.4 inch (1 cm) in two years), or did not increase in proportion to height growth. Trees in shelters were less sturdy, but other studies indicate that caliper growth in subsequent years may overcome this disadvantage.

Horticultural Abstracts 1997

Vol. 67, No. 11, Page 1243-44

Lilac Trivia

What is in a name? What does the choice of a name for a new lilac selection say about its originator?

Among the thirty-odd cultivar names **Mikolaj Karpow-Lipski** [Poland, 1896-1981] chose for naming his lilac selections there are three that honour cultural-historical personalities of international stature.

'Fryderyk Chopin'

Frédéric Chopin [1810-1849]. Polish composer and pianist, born in Zelazowa Wola near Warsaw. He played in public from the age of eight; in 1825 he published his first work, a Rondo in C minor. He studied at Warsaw Conservatory 1826-29. Between 1829 and 1848 he performed in various cities including Vienna, Paris, London, Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow. His compositions include 50 mazurkas, 25 *préludes*, two piano concertos, and a funeral march. He died of pulmonary tuberculosis.

'Tadeusz Kościuszko'

Tadeusz Andrezei Bonawentura Kościuszko [1746-1817]. Polish soldier and patriot, born near Slonim in Lithuania. He was trained in France as a career soldier. In 1777 he went to the United States where he fought for the colonists in the War of Independence [1775-83], advancing to the rank of brigadier-general. He returned to Poland in 1784. He fought the Russians in 1794, was wounded and taken prisoner. When released after two years he first went to England, then in 1797 to America, and finally in 1798 to France where he farmed near Fontainebleau. He moved to Soleure, Switzerland, in 1816. His remains lie beside Mickiewicz's in Cracow Cathedral.

'Adam Mickiewicz'

[1798-1855] National poet of the Poles, and one of the greatest of all Slav poets, born near Novogrodek in Lithuania (Minsk). Published his first poems in 1822. As founder of a students' secret society he was banished to Russia [1824-29]; there he wrote three patriotic epic poems. After a journey through Germany, France and Italy his masterpiece, the epic *Thaddeus* was published in 1834 (translated into English in 1886). Teaching at Lausanne, Switzerland. Slavonic professor in Paris [1840-1843]. Louis Napoleon appointed him librarian in the Paris Arsenal in 1852. He died in Constantinople. First buried at Montmorency, France; since 1890 his body lies beside Kościuszko's in Cracow Cathedral.

In the autumn of 1984 Fr. **John Leopold Fiala** [1924-1990] named one of his lilac selections for a fellow priest in Poland.

'Saint Jerzy Popielusko'

[1947-1984] Originally Alfons Popielusko, born in Okopy, near Svchowola, Podlasie, Poland. After being ordained a Roman Catholic priest he served in several Warsaw parishes. Inspired by the faith of his compatriot St. Maximilian Kolbe [1894-1941], he became an outspoken supporter of the Solidarity trade Union, especially when it was banned in 1981. His sermons at "Masses for the Country" regularly held in St. Stanislaw Kostka church were widely acclaimed. He ignored harassment and resisted official moves to have him silenced, but was kidnaped and murdered by the secret police in October 1984.

*Lit. ref.: Chambers Biographical Dictionary, 5th ed. [1990]
contributed by Freek Vrugtman*

waiting for lilacs

clusters of
buds
loosen
then spill

hovering
dumbstruck bees
sway like
drunken sailors

you can
taste purple
in the air
finally
June nights

Nancy Ashforth
Los Angeles, California
1989

International Lilac Society

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IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL

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