

# Lilacs

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## ***QUARTERLY JOURNAL***

of the International Lilac Society

*IN  
THIS  
ISSUE:*

### New Lilacs

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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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Owen M. Rogers, Editor, 38 College Road, Durham, NH 03824-3544

LILACS 1999

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## Cover Story

### **Front Cover**

*Syringa ×chinensis* 'Lilac Sunday' introduced by John H. Alexander III. More information is included under the notes From the Registrar's Desk. The photo is used under the copyright of J. Alexander.

### **Back Cover**

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Reva Ballreich' introduced by Descanso Gardens. Photo credit Descanso Gardens.

## Next Issue Deadline

The next issue deadline for material to be included in the Winter issue of **Lilacs** will be December 3rd. This is the directory issue so take a moment to check your listing and report any necessary changes to the Editor.

In the Fall issue, on page 66, Reed Cherinton's name was misspelled Charington. Mea Culpa.

## In Memoriam

Louis Fiala, Vice President of Region 3, died at the Italifay Medical Center, Daytona Beach, Florida on July 22, after a long illness. He was in his 57th year.

Lou possessed a pleasant disposition, and he loved nature, including lilacs and fishing. He also was an avid sports fan. He represented Case Power Equipment company in the eastern United States. Having recently taken early retirement, he had just moved into the first home of his own.

The Society extends sympathy to his mother, Pauline Fiala. He is also survived by a daughter, Angela Dotson of Olmsted, Ohio., and a son, Jody Fiala of Jacksonville, Florida, five brothers and four sisters, mostly of Ohio.

Rest In Peace.

## European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

In June I had the great privilege of being invited to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to attend the opening of the new Lilac Garden. The sun shone kindly on the assembled party which was presided over by the Director Sir Ghilleen Prance and the ribbon was formally cut by Mr. and Mrs. Giles Coode-Adams. It was a great pleasure to meet Tony Kirkham again for it was Tony who initiated the project, whilst it was Mr. Coode-Adams who made it feasible. The quality of the lilac plants was simply breathtaking and the love, care and consummate skill which has gone into the preparation of the beds is plain for all to see. The lilacs will be allowed to flower peacefully for two years before being publicized and before the general public is urged once more to "Come down to Kew at lilac time..."<sup>1</sup> I was thrilled to be there on your behalf. It is a wonderful achievement to which ILS has contributed right from the start.

In the Spring I wrote an article about the Russian lilacs in *Plant Heritage*, the Journal of the NCCPG. Though this is a national institution the membership is arranged on a regional basis around the country. As a consequence of that article, I was invited by the North West group, Mrs. B. M. Kershaw, to contribute to their Journal also. In the following correspondence Mrs. Kershaw revealed not only an informed and lively intelligence but also that she is a Russian linguist. She has helped me with the meanings of some of the trickier names of cultivars and these I will reveal in later editions but she has also sent me her own translation of a poem. It concerns a young man who is chiding his loved one for being so blasé about the delights of summer and romance. I offer it here because it furthers our knowledge about the lilac in literature and about the relationship between our plant and the Russian people.

K. M. Fofanov 1862-1911. Untitled Verses.

You said to me, 'How tediously  
All the poets write today,  
And their sonnets  
Are sadly overful.

The same old rhythms, the same old visions,  
And lilacs, always lilacs.'  
Yawning, you let fall the book  
Upon your knees.

Meanwhile, above us the sky  
Glowed burning blue;  
From the shadows of branches  
Netted patterns quivered on the path.

Maples, rippling with gold  
Winked their brilliance, playing with the shade.  
There are scents of limes and honey  
And the blossoming lilac.

And I said to you, 'See how beautiful  
Are the charms of summer,  
But they are old as eternity,  
Old as a poet's fantasy...'

I have great pleasure in forwarding an article sent to me by Gábor Schmidt from Budapest. Dr. Schmidt is not only one of our very good friends in Hungary but he is also a distinguished member of the International Plant Propagators Society. I must urge all other Complimentary members to follow Dr. Schmidt's example and keep me informed of the status of lilac collections they are connected with. If this is not done then I will consider terminating such memberships.

Another complimentary member who has served this Society with very great distinction is Vasily Gorb of Central Botanical Garden, Kiev in the Ukraine. Through a link with Danish Life Member Ole Heide, Dr. Gorb has sent to us lilacs which make up a very distinguished list. I can now give details of the ones which have been received here and which appear to be thriving. To the best of my knowledge all but one have not been seen before in western collections. There is much I could say about the work of these two wonderful people but I must respect their confidences and their admirable modesty. What I can say, however, is that both of them have acted in the highest traditions of this Society and I am proud to call each of them colleague and friend. I will list the Adolph Vaigla acquisitions also.



1997

*Syringa* *x chinensis* 'Duplex'

1998

<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	'Lesya Ukrainka'	'Mulatka'
	'Utro Rossii'	'DZ5'

1999

<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	'Fantaziya'	'Rozovoe Oblako'
	'Nevesta'	'Serebristy Landysh'
	'Nesterka'	'Shkol' nitsa'
	'Partizanka'	'Svityazanka'
	'Pamyat o Kolesnikove'	'Zashchitnikam Bresta'
	'Pamyat o Vekhove'	'Zor'ka Venera'
	'Radzh Kapur'	

From Adolph Vaigla, Estonia, to Ole Heide, to Norman's Farm.

<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	'Aino'	'Saima'
	'Andres'	'Silja'
	'Elsa Maasik'	'Tiina'
	'Liina'	
<i>Syringa x hyacinthiflora</i>		
	'Arvid Vilms'	'Laine'
	'Jaan'	'Vaiga'
	'Kivi Ats'	

In addition, I have received the following very valuable additions to the collection.

1997 From The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

*Syringa meyeri* var *spontanea*

1999 From Arild Landsnes, Asker, Norway.

*Syringa wolfii* 'San'  
*Syringa josikaea* 'Holte'  
*Syringa josikaea* 'Moe'  
*Syringa josikaea* 'Rå'  
*Syringa villosa* 'Baldishol'

Finally I must apologize for my facetious remark last time about the Mrcan<sup>2</sup> language. I have received a protest from the state of Iowa where, I am most emphatically informed, they speak Mare Kin<sup>3</sup>. Oh Dear! The intervention of the Good Lord at Babel<sup>4</sup> was much more confounding than I had realized.

### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> From *The Barrel-Organ* by Alfred Noyes. <sup>2</sup> I am indebted to Robert B. Clark for drawing my attention to this word. <sup>3</sup> From *Iowish*. Dana Wall. Star Printing and Pub. Co. South Sioux City. Date unknown <sup>4</sup> Genesis XI

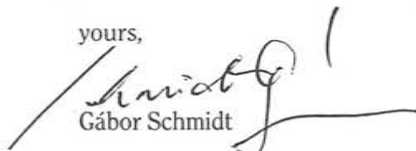
7 May 1999  
Mr. Colin Chapman  
Executive Vice President  
Norman's Farm  
Wyverstone, Stowmarket  
Suffolk, IP14 4SF England

Dear Mr. Chapman,

Here I am submitting again a Lilac Report from Hungary, commemorating a nice visit of Peter Ely in 1989 and the generous sending of Charles Holetich and Freek Vrugtman. The photo was made by Charles (with himself and me watching a fine specimen from the Katie Osborne Collection) during his visit to Budapest in May, 1996.

I hope that you will also visit us sometimes: Hungary is quite pleasant in early May.  
With sincere best wishes

yours,



Gábor Schmidt

***Experiences with the Katie Osborne Collection  
(RBG, Hamilton, Canada)***

*Gábor Schmidt, Budapest, Hungary*

***Introduction***

The author of this article is the curator of the Buda Arboretum of University Horticulture and Food Industry, Budapest, Hungary and has been a member of the International Lilac Society since 1978. He wrote his PhD-thesis on the propagation of lilacs by softwood leafy cuttings, and his present collection at the Arboretum and the related test-fields includes at present over 70 lilac varieties which is quite reasonable for that region.

***Background***

Having been previously keen remote, member of ILS for over 10 years, I got in a kind of personal touch (and correspondence) with the famous Katie Osborne Collection in 1989, when Curator and Registrar Freek Vrugtman initiated (and soon published) the registration of my new variety *Syringa josikae* 'Emerald'. (The variety, in the meantime, successfully passed the 3 years of official testing procedures and was recognized by the Hungarian National Plant Qualification Committee in 1992). By the kind help of Peter S. Ely (Connecticut, USA), who paid a short visit to Budapest in early May (our lilac time) of 1989, Plant Collections Surveyor Charles Holetich sent me scions of new-for-us lilac varieties in late January of 1990 and 1991. At that time, we had neither the skills not the facilities for winter-grafting of lilacs so I passed on the scions to my friends in the PRENOR Nursery (Szombathely, West-Hungary), who whip-grafted them on *Syringa vulgaris* seedlings. (In Hungary and neighbouring countries it is the traditional, although very unsuitable understock for lilacs. Since

then, we learned and adopted the American technique of winter-grafting on rooted privet cuttings and now we make our own grafts). The first plants grafted in Szombathely arrived to Budapest in 1992 and had been grown and pre-tested in our "Jackpot Nursery Corner" until 1997. In the meantime, Charles Holetich retired and returned to his home town Zagreb (Croatia) in late 1995. He visited us in early May of 1996 and checked the varieties he sent 6 years ago. After the pre-testing in the Jackpot Nursery, the new lilacs were transplanted to their final place in 1996-97.

## Results

Now that they have recovered after the transplanting shock and can show their full beauty and potential, I have the pleasure to report on the evaluation and performance of the first 24 varieties from the 1990 donation. The results of 8 years of observations are shown in table 1.

**Table 1.** Performance of lilac varieties mailed from the Katie Osborne Collection (RBG Hamilton) to University of Horticulture and Food Industry, Budapest, Hungary, between 1990-99.

PLANT NAME	graft take (1990)	growth in nursery (1991-99)	blooming and vigor (1994-99)
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Agincourt Beauty' .....	g .....	g .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Dappled Dawn' .....	n .....	- .....	-
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'De Miribel' .....	g .....	g .....	s
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Edward J. Gardner' .....	p .....	p .....	n
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Flora' .....	e .....	e .....	e
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Jessie Gardner' .....	e .....	e .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy' .....	g .....	g .....	e
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Monge' .....	s .....	s .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Nadezhda' .....	n .....	- .....	-
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Pamiat O.S.M.Kirove' .....	s .....	g .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Primrose' .....	s .....	g .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Rochester' .....	s .....	g .....	g
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Sensation' .....	g .....	e .....	e
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Slaters Elegance' .....	n .....	- .....	-
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> 'Znamya Lenina' .....	g .....	e .....	g
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestonie</i> 'Alice Rose Foster' .....	s .....	p .....	s
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestonie</i> 'Esterka' .....	s .....	p .....	s
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestonie</i> 'Nike' .....	s .....	p .....	p
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Esther Staley' .....	e .....	e .....	e
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>hyacinthiflora</i> 'Maidens Blush' .....	e .....	e .....	e
<i>Syringa julianae</i> 'Geo Eastman' .....	e .....	g .....	e
<i>Syringa microphylla</i> 'Superba' .....	g .....	g .....	e
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Royalty' .....	n .....	- .....	-
<i>Syringa</i> hybrid 'Minuet' .....	e .....	g .....	e

Notes: n=none; p=poor; s=satisfactory; g=good; e=excellent

Some remarks to the table:

• As anticipated, the *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars (and the related *S. hyacinthiflora* and *S. julianae* too) gave generally good graft-take on



*Syringa vulgaris* understock (but a heap of suckering problems later!) while the Preston- and Josiflexa hybrids took poorly or not at all. The subsequent development of the latter was also not satisfactory.

- In the meantime most of the listed cultivars have been propagated by softwood leafy cutting so the next generation is already on its own roots. These leafy younger plants are still subjects of testing and/or further distribution to collectors.

- So far, the best performers (in all respects) are as follows:

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Krasavitsa Moskv'; S.v. 'Monge', S.v. 'Sensation', S.v. 'Znamya Lenina', *S. ×hyacinthiflora* 'Esther Staley', *S. ×h* 'Maidens Blush', *S. julianae* 'Geo Eastman', *S. microphylla* 'Superba' and *S. hybrid* 'Minuet'.

- It was a special pleasure to receive and successfully propagate the fine Russian cultivars of Kolesnikov. In the "good old communist times" we had tried several times to get them directly from the Soviet Union but neither me nor my friend Peter Bercsek (another ILS member, the author of a book on lilacs in Hungary) got ever an answer to our letters. We are not sure if Russian friends got the letters at all...

- The Preston-hybrids do not seem to like the hot climate and the alkaline soils of Hungary, even if on their own roots. They show symptoms of lime-chlorosis and their blooming is not as spectacular as anticipated. So far, cv. Hiawatha is still the best from this group that we introduced from the Kordes Nursery (Germany) 11 years ago.

- The introduction of *S. microphylla* 'Superba' had helped to finally correct the misnaming of *S. meyeri* 'Palibin' that came to Hungary as *S. mycophylla* 'Superba' some 6 years before.

### **Additional notes:**

- In the summer of 1996 I had the possibility to visit Canada with a team of Hungarian nurserymen (supported by USA-Hungarian RD Fund JF 386). We paid a pilgrimage to the Katie Osborne Collection and found most of the shrubs where our plants presumably originate from.

- Meteorological anomalies in 1998 resulted into some anomalies in lilac development in Hungary: after a cool spell in mid July a very hot and dry August followed, then September was very cool but October warm again. The flower-buds of several cultivars had partially overgone the necessary dormancy period and started to bloom on leafy shoots in mid-October.

- After a long, cold, but unusually regular (and hence very good) winter, we had an exceptionally early spring in 1999. As mentioned at the beginning of this article, our usual lilac time is late April until mid or late May. This year, everything was almost one month earlier, the members of Lamartime-group started to bloom at early April and the *S. vulgaris*, *S. oblata* and the *S. ×hyacinthiflora* hybrids around the 12-14<sup>th</sup> of April. Now it is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May (Maypoles everywhere in villages) and their full bloom goes towards the end: maybe one more almost over. The inflorescence

of late blooming species and hybrids (*S. josikae*, *S. juliana*, *S. reflexa*, *S. × prestoniae*, *S. komarowii* etc.) have almost fully developed and the first florets started to open.

Budapest, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999

Gábor Schmidt

### **Acknowledgement**

The author is indebted to all colleagues mentioned for their friendship and help, and to the RBG Hamilton and Katie Osborne Collection for the materials and hospitality in 1996.



*Charles Holetich (on the left) and Gábor Schmidt (right) in Budapest in May 1996. See Dr. Schmidt's letter.*

## **New ILS Website**

*by Frank Moro, Executive VP for Canada*

The idea of having an ILS website was presented by Brad Bittorf at the convention in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1996. It has taken three years and with the hard work of Karen Wheeler, one of our members in California, David Gressley, Brad Bittorf and I have managed to get the website up and running. The web address is [www.lilacs.freesevers.com](http://www.lilacs.freesevers.com). The site is still in its infancy and we have changed many things since it started in April 1999. We will be adding lilac parks and monthly articles this fall. Anyone having a park or lilac collection that you would like to have listed, please contact me and we will include it when we get the section up and running.

As for articles, I invite everyone to write an article about lilacs that they would like to have on site for a month at a time and we will put it up. The site has been receiving about 250 visitors per month. It will, and has already proven to be, a great way to promote lilacs. There is already information about the last convention in Shelburne, Vermont, a section on all the lilac names registered, and lilac care tips.

Since the website belongs to us all, I look forward to suggestions from members and look forward even more to anyone who would like to contribute material.

We also have a section for nurseries who wish to advertise on the site. This can be done for \$100.00 US per year. If you have a lilac nursery or a specialized nursery it will be a great way to get some inexpensive exposure.

If anyone wishes to contact me, they can do so at (450) 477-3797 for either fax or phone, or e-mail me at [lilacs@access.com](mailto:lilacs@access.com).

## WANTED: Auction Items

by Frank Moro

All the lilacs for the millenium convention will be from Canadian sources so we are looking for other items that would be of interest to be sold at the auction. In the past I have seen some great items and I am hoping that many people will want to bring something that represents their part of the state or country to add even more to the international flare.

Please contact Frank Moro at (450) 477-3797 or e-mail at [lilacs@xcess.com](mailto:lilacs@xcess.com).

Thanks in advance.

### Convention 2000 • The Millenium Convention

It is with great pleasure that I can release information about the next convention site. It will be in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on May 25, 26 & 27 in the year 2000. The host, as most of you know, will be Select Plus International Nursery owned by Frank and Sara Moro. The convention will tour the Montreal Botanical Gardens the first day and will have some excellent workshops on hybridization, grafting and rooting cuttings. These are working workshops and members will have the chance to practice some of these techniques.

The hotel receiving us is the Hotel Le President in Laval just five minutes north of the island of Montreal. In the winter issue of *Lilacs* room prices, maps and reservation phone numbers will be listed.

There will be a special auction where all members, even those who do not attend the meeting, will be able to bid on some very hard to find lilacs. This will be done by silent bid over the winter.

A list of the lilacs and final procedures will be printed in the winter quarterly. There will be only one of each cultivar available in the auction. Among others lilacs, there will be *Syringa prestoniae* 'Julia'; *S. josikea* 'Rå'; *S. vulgaris* 'Joel', *S. vulgaris* 'K.A. Timiryazev' and *S. vulgaris* 'Vesuve'. Arrangements will be made for US residents who wish to take plants back with them.

Anyone can preview some photos of the convention sites as well as the agenda and lilac cultivars for the auction on the ILS website at [www.lilacs.freesevers.com](http://www.lilacs.freesevers.com).

A tentative agenda for the convention is included in this issue. The fee will be \$140.00 US or \$205.00 Canadian. This will cover two days of breakfasts, lunches and suppers. Also fees for bus transportation, access to the Botanical Gardens and the hospitality suites for three nights are included.

The deadline for registration will be April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The late registration fees will be \$150.00 US and \$215.00 Canadian. One day packages can also be arranged.

Checks should be made out to Frank Moro c/o International Lilac Society and sent to: Frank Moro, Convention 2000, 1510 Pine Mascouche J7I 2M4, Quebec, Canada.

Please note; if anyone has allergies or certain food requirements, please let me know by mail, fax or e-mail as soon as possible.

# Proposed Agenda for the International Lilac Society Convention 2000

Date	Time	Activity
May 25	2-7:30 pm	Board Meeting/Working Supper
	3 pm on	Registration
	7:30-10 pm	Hospitality Suite
May 26	6:30-8:30 am	Breakfast
	8:45 am	Leave for Montreal Botanical Gardens
	9:15-10:30 am	Visit Lilac Dell
		Visit Chinese Gardens and Bonsai Collection
	11:30-1 pm	Visit Japanese Gardens and Insectarium
	1:15-2:15 pm	Lunch at Biodome
	2:30-3:30 pm	Annual ILS Meeting
	3:30-4:30 pm	Guest speakers from Botanical Gardens
	4:30-5 pm	Special presentation by Select Plus Nursery
	5:15 pm	Buses leave to hotel
	6:30-9 pm	President's Supper, hotel
	9-11 pm	Hospitality Suite
May 27	6:30-8:30 am	Breakfast, hotel
	7:30-8:30 am	New Board Meeting
	8:30-10:30 am	Auction at hotel in breakfast room
	11-11:30	Travel to Terrebonne
	11:45-12:15	Lilac Walk
	12:15-1:15 pm	Lunch at L'etang du Moulin
	1:30 pm	Board buses
	1:45-2:15 pm	Grafting Workshop, Frank Moro's house
	2:15-2:45 pm	Hybridizing Workshop, Bob Hoepfl
	2:45-3:15 pm	Rooted cutting Workshop
	3:15-5 pm	Tour liner production
	5:30 pm	Return to hotel
	6:30-9 pm	Awards Banquet, hotel
	9-11 pm	Hospitality Suite
May 28		Breakfast on your own

## Report from Region 7 - California

by Reva Ballreich, Regional Vice-President

This has truly been the year of lilacs in California. The lilac growers I have spoken with have reported phenomenal plant growth and extra large blossoms. Woody Barnes reported minor frost damage; however, the unaffected plants bloomed beautifully. Unfortunately, my lilac peak bloom period and my Annual Lilac Tour coincided with the ILS Convention. The Tour was extremely successful and eventful. All 47 Fiala varieties I have bloomed this year. I was also able to "prove out" the Rankin cultivars in my collection. A camera/video crew from Korea came to film my gardens, especially 'Miss Kim'. Also a camera crew from British Columbia came to film all the gardens. Our local PBS station filmed the lilacs for TV viewing in January, 2000. Some staff and members of the Descanso Gardens and the American Rhododendren Society also visited the gardens.

The Spokane Lilac Society has chosen one of my closed pollinated seedlings, #3-203 to be named *S. vul.* 'Spokane'. The Idyllwild Garden Club has chosen seedling #8-208 to be named *S. vul.* 'Idyllwild'. I do feel greatly honored to have my hard work recognized.

The Descanso Gardens lilacs were beyond description this year. I have never seen the collection bloom so profusely. Rudy Schaffer has planted a newly registered cultivar hybridized by Max Peterson named *S. vul.* 'Reva Ballreich' in a very prominent place in the famous gardens. The large double blossoms are pink with mauve buds and a mauve "button" in the center of the florets. A totally beautiful specimen. "Thanks Max".

Sandy Chrysler, who lives in the foothills of the Tehachapi Mountains, reports the hundreds of lilac plants she received from Frank Moro are growing better than she could have ever hoped any plant to do. They are planted on hill sides, reminiscent of Grape Hill. Each year Sandy holds her Annual Mother's Day Lilac Festival.

Celestin Reallon of Fawn Skin in the San Bernardino Mountains reported his collection was glorious this spring. For a while it seemed the great fire last week would wipe out the plants, but they were saved by a change in winds.

Another collection worthy of mentioning and watching grow is a recently planted one of Julie Anne Boyer in the Antelope Valley. She has 83 varieties and will be planting more this fall on the slopes surrounding her stables and riding arena.

Brianna Czaja of the huge Cooke's Wholesale Nursery in Visalia, CA. reports to me a great increase in the demand for lilac plants. She credits the demand to more and more exposure and promoting of the better varieties.

## Spokane Lilac Society

Dear Reva,

I am pleased to report to you that on July 9th, 1999, Spokane Lilac Society members unanimously agreed in choosing the lilac to be named 'Spokane'.

It was a very difficult choice to choose between the eight seedlings photos you provided, but we felt #3-203 was a show stopper with rare and unique traits. The pink lilac with the individual florets pointed caught our attention.

Thank you for providing us with the photos. We look forward to seeing 'Spokane' bloom. We understand you will handle the process of registering the lilac for us. Please let us know if we can be of further help to you.

Thank you.

MarvaLee Peterschick

President, Spokane Lilac Society

## Ornamentals of the Olive Family

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, NH

The botanical alliance typified by the olive consists of twenty-two genera of which *Syringa* is one. Its members are woody, and they occur in temperate and semi-temperate and semi-tropical regions of the northern hemisphere, chiefly eastern Asia and the East Indies. The olive, *Olea europaea*, which gives its name to the family, has been cultivated since ancient times for its edible fruits which also yield oil for cooking, perfumery and ceremony- symbolizing prosperity, divine blessing, beauty, peace and friendship. This paper, however, focuses on eight ornamental cousins of the lilac, with technical terms held to a minimum.

Vegetative or physical characters shared among olive family members are: opposite leaves and four parted flowers whose petals are united into a tube. Differences are found in their fruit structure: berries or drupes (*Olea*, *Chionanthus*), samara (*Fraxinus*, *Abeliophyllum*) and capsule (*Forsythia*, *Syringa*).

Fragrant olive, *Osmanthus fragrans*, is a small shrub with evergreen foliage for Southern gardens. Clusters of tiny white, very fragrant flowers are borne in late winter.

Winter jasmine, *Jasminum nudiflorum*, is a tall upright shrub with arching branches from China. Single bright yellow flowers appear between February and April in Southern gardens.

White fringe-tree: *Chionanthus virginicus*, named for its snowy flowers, is a large shrub native to America from New Jersey to Florida and Texas. Its elliptic to oblong leaves are large, 3 to 8 inches long, unfolding in late spring after the pendent clusters of white, delicately scented flowers appear in late May or early June. Individual florets bear four narrow petals. The sexes are separate on individual plants. The staminate (male) flowers are numerous and showier than the pistillate (female) flowers. Loose clusters of dark blue fruits (drupes) ripen in September.



Holly-leaved osmanthus, *O. ilicifolia*, is a large evergreen shrub from Japan. It is hardy in the middle-Atlantic States (New Jersey southward). *Osmanthus americana* ranges from North Carolina to Florida and Texas, but is not well known horticulturally. The former species bear lustrous dark green spiny leaves, one half to two and a half inches long. Its fragrant white flowers are borne in small clusters in June. Small drupes are dark blue.

California privet, *Ligustrum ovalifolium*, is a large shrub which is commonly planted in hedges, and is sometimes used as rootstock in grafting of lilacs. Its dark lustrous green leaves are one and a half to three inches long with white flowers of an uncommon fragrance are born in small terminal panicles in July. A small tree with glossy evergreen foliage, *L. lucidum*, from China, is sometimes planted along streets in warmer regions

Flowering Ash, *Fraxinus Ornus*, a round-headed tree of southern Europe and western Asia, attains sixty feet in height and in June bears panicles of showy white flowers. Its leaves are pinnately divided. The fruit is a samara with an elongated narrow wing. The green ash, *F. pensylvanica* var. *lanceolata*, is the preferred understock in grafting of lilacs.

*Abeliophyllum distichum* i.e. the olive family genus with leaves resembling the honeysuckle family's genus *Abelia*, except that they are two ranked as if pinnately compound. I call this "the white forsythia" from Korea. It is a small shrub, four feet high, with graceful arching branches. Small ovate leaves are one half to two inches long. Delicately fragrant white flowers arise in small clusters from buds of last year's branchlets in late April. Winged samaras, a half inch across, ripen in August.

Golden-bells, *Forsythia ×intermedia* with its cultivars is much planted as a spring harbinger for its abundant bright yellow flowers that in northern gardens cover the branches, provided that winter temperatures have not been too low or prolonged. Quality bloom develops on vigorous shoots, therefore much branched canes should regularly be entirely removed. Hedge type shearing is not recommended. The Korean forsythia, *F. ovata*, is flower-bud hardy, but not spectacular.

The lilacs, *Syringa* spp. are the most diverse group horticulturally of the olive family, for example:

<b>Botanical Class</b>	<b>Species example</b>	<b>Blooming season</b>
<i>Eusyringa</i>		
<i>Pinnatifoliae</i>	<i>S. pinnatifolia</i>	very early
<i>Vulgares</i>	<i>S. oblata</i>	early
	<i>S. vulgaris</i>	the season
	<i>S. pubescens</i>	late midseason
<i>Villosae</i>	<i>S. villosa</i>	late
<i>Ligustrina</i>	<i>S. reticulata</i>	very late

In summary ornamental plants of the olive family are mostly shrubs with opposite leaves and usually fragrant white flowers with four lobes. Flowers are borne in clusters along the canes or terminally. Fruits are berries, samaras, or capsules. The foregoing plants will enhance the *syringetum* (lilac collection).



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*Bob Clark in an olive grove north of Rome.* photo credit Pero Dimsoski

## The Well Grown Lilac

by Robert B. Clark, Meredith, NH

In his essay on gardening Francis Bacon wrote that man has come to build more stately than to garden finely. The reason is obvious. Architecture and engineering use inanimate materials whereas with gardening living growing plants are the medium. Among the fine arts gardening is unique. Gardens are planted in various sites to which the plant materials must be adapted. All other arts start from a given base. In gardening, however, all things are variable or subject to modification.

in this discussion I am considering only the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, native to the Balkans and its French hybrids. In nature lilacs are found on limestone outcroppings. This has given rise to the idea that lilacs need or do best in limestone soils (i.e. above pH7.0). True, lilacs do better when acid soils are amended copiously with ground (agricultural) lime. Ask your local garden expert for advice on application rates.

The Balkans lie in the North Temperate Zone between 40-50 degree N latitude with a climate comparable to what the U.S.D.A. atlas labels Zones IV to VI. Lilacs, therefore, are winter hardy and heat tolerant; however, they have been found to fail flowering in Southern States where lakes do not freeze over enough to allow skating. Furthermore in southern latitudes where springtime is short - hot weather sets in soon after cold nights are over - the early hybrids, *S. ×hyacinthiflora* cultivars are recommended.

Although common lilacs withstand prolonged periods of little rainfall, they prosper under forty inches evenly distributed annually which translates into an inch per week during growing season. Sandy loam

soils provide good growth, thus indicating adequate drainage, since lilacs do not tolerate "wet feet". Clayey soils must be amended copiously with sand for normal root development. Otherwise in regions of clay soils raised beds are recommended - outline beds with railroad ties, set the lilac on the ground, and fill the space between with sandy loam. Lilacs are "gross feeders". They require fertile soils. Lacking such the soil should be amended by a 5-10-5 fertilizer. Again ask advice of your local garden expert for application rates.

Full grown lilacs require much space. Many cultivars attain a height of eight to twelve feet, and a spread of ten to fifteen feet. These dimensions are fine if acreage is available. In gardens of limited dimensions, the smaller or slower growing lilacs are more satisfying. Having flower clusters at eye level is most pleasing. This calls for a pruning program to sustain bloom and height. Quality bloom occurs on vigorous canes. Older canes need to be removed - often on a schedule of three year rotation (i.e. one third of the less productive canes cut to 6 or 8 inches above the ground each year).

Lilacs fail to bloom if not well established or adequately fertilized nutritionally, the previous growing season had been unfavorable to bud set, or if neighboring trees have cast too much shade.

In summary the common lilac responds favorably to full sun, fertile soil and adequate rainfall. Good gardening.

## **Does the Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) Normally Sucker**

*by Owen Rogers*

In Colin Chapman's informative article in *Plant Heritage* ("Beauties from Moscow" *Plant Heritage* Vol. 6 No. Spring 1999. The Journal of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) he speaks (on page 26) of the work of Leonid Alekseevitch Kolesnikov and says "It was Kolesnikov who first put forth the proposition that lilacs do not sucker..." In reply to my query for more information, Colin sent this answer:

From Colin Chapman

In *Lilacs* Vol. 2. No. 4 May 1974 is an article about Kolesnikov by A. Gromov. In it, Gromov writes:

'L Kolesnikov came to a firm conclusion that the roots of the lilac could not create vegetative buds. The suckers appear as a result of implanting of one year sprouts developed from dormant buds which are located higher above the neck on the edge of it.'

I interpret this - rightly or wrongly - to mean that Kolesnikov was applying a very pure interpretation of the term 'suckering' to mean only the ability of roots to produce vegetative buds as in the genus *Prunus* or the genus *Populus*. The term has subsequently come to mean any old garbage thrown up by an understock as in the genus *Rosa* and I have to say that I have some sympathy with Kolesnikov in taking up this position. The modern catch-all term does nothing to further our understanding of what is going on; it is descriptive jargon masquerading as analysis. When I read Gromov my thinking followed these lines:

- a. suckers are the result of roots forming vegetative shoots
- b. lilac 'suckers' come out of a collar of stem at the edge of and just above the roots
- c. these buds send out shoots which run underground before turning up to the surface and the light
- d. the underground portion of the shoot, being blanched (etiolated), has the capacity to form roots - technically a form of self air-layering by the plant itself
- e. thus, in the case of a suckering plant like the poplar, the root comes first and then the vegetative shoot later.
- f. but, in the case of the lilac, the vegetative shoot comes first, then the root.

Ergo, the lilac does not 'sucker' and my own observations bear out this process. As Gromov then seems to point out, the distinction may be a simple one but a true understanding of the mechanism is needed to inform the principles of cultivation. And Charles Holetich has written eloquently on that subject.

It seems to me that the very act of cutting back a main stem should activate a response from that highly active collar. The lilac, like its close relative the Ash, is a coppice plant. Cutting back a stem is frequently done in a garden context to shape a shrub, to keep it open and to limit its size. In the wild this would only happen if the stem were eaten, or ringed by a browsing animal, so it is another survival tactic, perhaps? But when a lilac is grafted onto a lilac rootstock, and when the very first act of grafting is to cut down the central stem of the understock, then the problem of 'suckering' might indeed be endemic to horticultural practice - that of 'coppicing' the understock. However, that cannot explain why in the conditions of East Anglia and without touching the stems both 'Glory' and 'P P Konachalovski' on their own roots are the most suckering thugs I have ever encountered. But then, that is the wonder of the lilac; not even the most advanced thinkers can second guess this most enigmatic and mysterious of plants.

End of quote from Colin

You can see that much of this argument is somatic. If one looks up a definition of suckering in reference books, it varies from "A shoot arising

from the roots or from beneath the surface of the ground" (Michael Dirr "*Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*") to "A vegetative shoot of subterranean origin" (Fernald in "*Gray's Manual of Botany*"). Regardless of your definition, most people would admit that the majority of *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars do produce new shoots e.g. suckers, from the original plant and my original question (Does the common lilac normally sucker?) still stands. Radcliffe Pike didn't believe so. He went to Romania one May to attend a lilac festival. The festival was over by the time he got there but he hired a guide and toured the forest areas where *S. vulgaris* is native. None of the lilacs he saw had suckers even from old bushes. Therefore, he proposed that *S. vulgaris* does not ordinarily sucker but that when the first plant explorers wanted to collect material to introduce into cultivation they looked and looked until they found the rare plant that suckered and dug up the suckers. This would mean that lilacs introduced into commerce had the rare quality of producing suckers. Most of our common lilac cultivars have come from those original suckering plants so now most forms of *S. vulgaris* in the trade have suckers. There are some cultivars of the common lilac that do not normally sucker e.g. 'Sensation' and 'Jan van Tol' and most species that have been introduced directly from the wild e.g. *S. patula* and *S. villosa* do not sucker. Therefore, Kolesnikov and Rad Pike may be correct in their statements that the suckering habit of the common lilac directly results from the efforts of the original collectors of *S. vulgaris* perpetuated through the years.

A corollary support for this pattern can be found in Gabor Schmidt's article "How Did the Common Lilac Get to Hungary?" in *Lilacs* Vol. 24 No. 4 Fall 1995 Pg. 86-89. In it he says:

"Members of the ornamental group were spontaneously selected for the beauty (and fragrance) of their flowers, which are somewhat larger and usually darker than those of the type, although white colours and semi-double flowers also occur. These types are still planted in the front gardens and graveyards of villages, usually as unnamed clones or just under names like "the dark mauve," "the white one," "the double one," "the pink lilac," etc. **They are usually also higher in growth and less suckering in habit than the wild type, although suckers were essential for their propagation and distribution.**" [emphasis added]

What do you think? If you will write it down and send it to the *Journal* Editor, he promises to publish it.

## Drought Stresses Lilacs

*by Robert Hoepfl*

The drought, which has affected the northeastern states, has been particularly noticeable on the Lilac collection at Highland Park, Rochester, New York. Rainfall totals are approximately .50 inches above normal for the year through mid-August. Only January and March precipitation totals were above normal due to intense blizzard conditions. Spring and summer showers have come largely in isolated, brief downpours as with passing thunderstorms. Such rainfall tends to run off the ground, especially unfavorable conditions for the Highland Park collection, which is located on a southfacing hillside. Add to this the very sunny and very warm conditions during June and July. July featured only 1.78 inches of rain, nearly one inch below normal, while experiencing 6 days of 90° F or above and an incredible 9 days when the high was 89° F. These temperatures resulted in high evaporation rates.

Due to good spring conditions the lilacs had put on substantial new growth, and along with adequate mulch they did not display drought stress until mid-July. The older mature plantings showed little or no signs of stress, however plantings dating back 7 or 8 years ago displayed severe signs of wilted foliage. Upon close examination I found bud formation already set on July 28. Needless to say these buds were quite small.

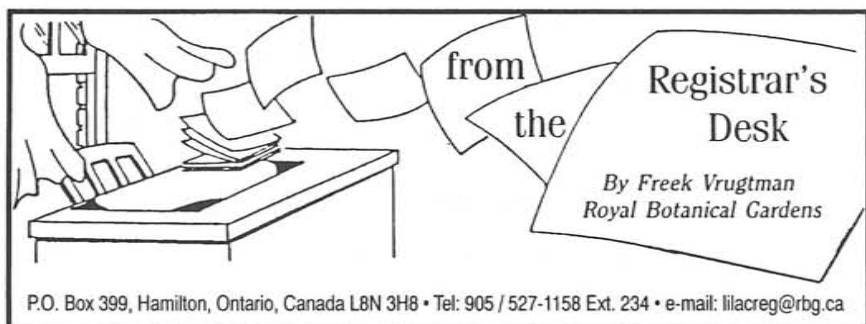
As is usually the case, location plays a major role in any plant's life. The younger plants had to contend with mature adjacent plants, varying ground elevation, accessibility to water sources and competition with vigorous weeds. Add to these conditions the annual spring Lilac Festival, which attracts upwards of 200,000 people compacting the soil, and you have major problems. The grounds were aerated following this stampede, but without sufficient moistures the grass quickly went dormant.

August is proving to be a bit cooler with more cloud cover and nearly an inch more rainfall than normal. Whether this will be sufficient or is too late to increase the flower bud size remains to be seen.

In addition to nature's wrath of which we have no control, this was the year selected to install underground utilities and replace street lighting along Highland Avenue. This construction involved trenching the entire length of the lilac collection along the Avenue and occasionally placing large vaults for access and connections. Adjacent lilacs and their roots sustained minimum damage. Due to the unusual weather conditions the extremely dry sandy loam soil created vast amounts of dust which adhered to the lilac foliage for weeks. However, recent rains and cool damp nights have corrected this condition. As a result of this construction numerous overhead wires and obstructive telephone poles will no longer encumber view of the lilacs.

You will have the opportunity to see how the lilacs fared and view the improvements for yourself. Plan on attending the 2001 convention.





## *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* 'Big Blue', Lammerts 1953

A recent inquiry about 'Big Blue' lilac, referred to John L. Fiala's book, *Lilacs-The Genus Syringa*, [1988], p.93 and plate 77. Looking it up, the registrar discovered an error which had not been reported before. The lilac shown on plate 77 is an unidentified selection, not 'Big Blue', which is S III, not S II violet. The "Big Blue" line on page 93 should be deleted. The identity of the cultivar shown on plate 77 of Fiala's book as 'Big Blue' has not been determined.

The current entry from the International Register reads:

S III 'Big Blue', Lammerts 1953 HYACINTHIFLORA  
 {'(Lammerts C 112' × 'Lamartine' seedling) × ('Lammerts 42-109-4' × ?)} Lammerts, US Pl. Pat. No. 3895 [Aug.15,1976]; Vrugtman, *Lilacs-Proceedings* 6(1):17 [1978]; Vrugtman, *AABGA Bull.* 13(4):107 [1979]  
 Since this cultivar appears to be of 'Lavender Lady' ancestry see also: Pringle, *Lilacs Quarterly Journal* 24(4):97-99 [1995]; and Vrugtman, *HortScience* 31(3):328 [1996]  
 cv. name registered 1976.

The late Dr. Walter E. Lammerts [1904-1996] is the originator of 'Big Blue'. His original plant was patented as US Patent 3,89 [May 25, 1976] and assigned to Hines Wholesale Nurseries, Santa Ana, CA. 'Big Blue' is a descendent of Lammerts' 'Lavender Lady', his original breakthrough cultivar that does not require winter-chilling to initiate flower buds.

The key characteristics, taken from the US Plant Patent fact sheet are: Thyrses from 7 to 10 inches in length and 7 to 12 inches in width, occasionally exceeding 12 inches in length and width; flower buds large, stubby, globular-elongate, in the Red-Purple Group, Plates 70B to 70C [RHS Colour Chart]; florets from 7/8 of an inch to 13/16 inches in diameter; in the Violet-Blue Group, Plates 94C to 94D, with tints of Red-Purple Group, Plate 70C; petal colour fading towards the base to Violet-

Blue Group, Plates 92B to 92C; underside of the floret varies from Purple Group, Plate 75B to Plate 75C; distinct pleasing fragrance.

Application for registration of the cultivar name 'Big Blue' was received on December 1, 1976 from Carl Bell, staff botanist of Hines Wholesale Nurseries.

## The 'Hers' Juliana Lilac – some facts but no conclusion

### *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae* 'Hers'

syn – *S. juliana* 'Hers Variety', 'Hers Forms'

{presumably grown from seed collected by J. Hers in China}

Wister, *Lilacs for America*, 49, 50 [1942] – name only; Wister, *Lilacs for America*, 31, 32 [1953] – as S V (identical in description to *S. julianae*); Fiala, *Lilacs*, 39, 50, 101, 107, Pl. 32 [1988].

Ernest Henry Wilson ["Chinese Wilson", 1876-1930] collected seeds of a lilac in October-November 1901 in China and sent it to Veitch nurseries. Plants raised from these seeds were distributed as *S. villosa*, but later named *S. julianae* by Camillo K. Schneider [1911] (A. A. No. 6624; plant received November, 1907 from J. Veitch, Chelsea, England.)

In 1920 The Arnold Arboretum received seeds of *S. julianae*, collected by Joseph Hers in China on December 13, 1919 (A. A. No. 18068; 736-19; no herbarium specimen on record; no Hers collection number). Plants were raised from these seeds; however, the plants were recorded as missing in 1933. The Arnold Arboretum records do not contain the term "Hers variety", though it may have been used elsewhere, to distinguish between the plants grown from the Wilson [1901] and from the Hers [1919] seed lots. The plants grown from the Hers seed lot are not mentioned by McKelvey [1928]. The statement by Fiala, that "...Joseph Hers...sent home seeds of...the special cultivar he called *S. julianae* 'Hers' (Fiala, *Lilacs*, pg. 39) is incorrect; it is most unlikely that Hers collected seed of this lilac, presuming it to be different from the one E. H. Wilson had collected in 1901.

Incidentally, in the late 1950's Joseph Hers resided in Brussels, Belgium, and was a member of the International Dendrology Union. The late Bernard Harkness, at the time taxonomist with the Bureau of Parks, Rochester, NY, corresponded with Hers in 1958-59, inquiring about the existence of diaries, letters or memoirs concerning his plant collecting activities in China; there is no evidence in the letters and in the bibliographies consulted that such records existed. Rochester Parks had received some of the seeds collected by Hers and distributed by the Arnold Arboretum. Whether any of the *S. julianae* (A. A. No. 18068; 736-19) seeds or plants reached Rochester has not been documented.

Rochester Parks acquired *S. julianae* plants from Upton Nursery in 1945, which were used in a naturalized planting at Durand-Eastman Park. The records do not indicate whether the planting included specimens of 'Hers'; it is in this planting that 'George Eastman' originated as an open-pollinated seedling (first observed in 1972 as a ca. 5-year-old seedling.)

By 1978 this planting was not longer in existence. A specimen received from Elan Memorial Park in 1959 labeled *Syringa julianae* Hers Form (No. 844) was subsequently identified as *S. microphylla*.

The date of introduction of 'Hers' is uncertain. There is no notation in the Arnold Arboretum records that plants of this accession were distributed. Fiala, *Lilacs*, p. 101 [1988], lists the year of selection or introduction of 'Hers' as 1923, but does not state who selected, named and/or introduced this cultivar. At the time of the 1941 survey conducted by the Committee on Horticultural Varieties of The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta the name *S. julianae* Hers variety was known and included in the report *Lilacs for America*, but this lilac was not recorded for any of the gardens and nurseries surveyed. In the report of the 1953 lilac survey Hers variety was recorded for: Elan Memorial Park, Berwick, PA; Whitnall Park Arboretum, Hales Corners, WI; Edw. J. Gardner Nursery, Horicon, WI; Kingsville Nursery (Henry J. Hohman), Kingsville, MD; and Upton Nursery, Detroit MI. The original sources of the plants in these collections and the dates of acquisition are not known.

In the 1990s plants of 'Hers' have been listed by a few nurseries and recorded in a few collections; the original sources of these plants could not be determined. One plant acquired by Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, in 1983 as 'Hers' neither can be authenticated (traced back through the records to the original source), nor does it fit the description of *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae*.

The earliest published description of 'Hers' appears to be "S V", or single, pinkish, in Wister, *Lilacs for America*, 32 [1953]; however, on the same page *S. julianae* also is described as "S V", or single, pinkish. The next and more detailed description is by John Fiala in *Lilacs*, p. 50 [1988]: "A pale-lavender variety ... a much broader bush than the species ... deep purple-violet buds that open a lighter lavender both on the outside and inner side of corolla and petals. The notable difference between the 'Hers' variety and the special *S. julianae* is that the latter carries a flower which is a paler lavender on the outside and a blushed pale lavender-white on the inside. 'Hers' has a far deeper purple corolla and outer petals opening to a light lavender floret inside the petals. On p. 101 Fiala describes 'Hers' as "... more lavender than pink..." The plant of 'Hers' seen by Fiala has not been authenticated.

The evidence seen to date has not been convincing. Readers who believe that they have the real *Syringa pubescens* subsp. *julianae* 'Hers' are requested to write to the Editor of *Lilacs-Quarterly Journal* or contact the International Lilac Registrar.

#### **Biographic note on Joseph Hers [1884-1965]**

Joseph Hers was a Belgian railroad construction engineer and administrator, who was first stationed at the Belgian consulate in Shanghai in 1910, and in 1922 was appointed administrator of the Lung-Hai and Pien-Lo railways. During the period 1919 to 1924 Hers collected seed

and specimens of more than 2,000 species, most of which were directed to the Arnold Arboretum. Herbarium specimens collected by Hers can be found at Arnold Arboretum (A) (2,234); Botanical Garden, Brussels, Belgium (BR) (2717), RBG Kew (K) (500), College of Agriculture and Forestry, Nanjing, China (NF) (250); and Museum of Natural History, Paris, France (P) (232). Between 1922 and 1938 Joseph Hers published a number of papers on cultivated and indigenous woody plants of China, Manchuria, and the Pacific provinces of Russia; and on Chinese names of plants.

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## Martine Spaargaren [1916-1991] and the Proefstation Introductions

In the April 12, 1963 issue of *Arnoldia* (volume 23, number 4) John C. Wister published a *Supplementary registration list of cultivar names in Syringa L. - Registered 1963*, listing the names of lilacs "introduced, or named since publication of 1953 edition of *Lilacs for America*." The originator or introducer of five of these lilacs is given as "Proefstation v.d. Bloemisterij, Aalsmeer, Holland." Inquiries made at the Proefstation voor de Bloemisterij (experiment station for floriculture) in the late 1970s were inconclusive; no records could be located. Released between 1954 and 1958 for flower-forcing, these cultivars appeared not to have become known beyond the reaches of Aalsmeer growers.

On one of our visits to The Netherlands, at the Botanical Garden of the Free University of Amsterdam, my wife and I were introduced to Mr. Z. Kees Turtković-Šahin, principal of SAHIN ZADEN, producers and traders of seeds. We happened to discuss lilacs and Sahin mentioned casually that a lilac had been named for his aunt. Only much later did I learn that the lilac in question was *Syringa vulgaris* 'Martine', and that it had been named for Martine ("Pop") Spaargaren. Given these leads, we were able to unravel the history of the five "Proefstation" lilacs, which have not been recorded by J. L. Fiala in his book, *Lilacs -The genus Syringa* [1988].

Martine Spaargaren was born in Aalsmeer, daughter of Cornelis Spaargaren Dzn. She was educated at the Boskoop Horticultural School, under the tutelage of Dr. B. K. Boom and Directeur Moerlands. She was hired at the Aalsmeer Proefstation, where her father was Chef de Cultures, and worked under the guidance of Dr. Roodenburg. During her tenure from 1936 until 1940 she participated in the development of cut-flowers for forcing including carnations, gerberas and lilacs. The *Syringa* crosses were made in 1939, using 'Marie Finon', 'Madame Félix', 'Ruhm von Horstenstein' and 'Königin Luise', but the individual parentage of the final selections is not known. The seed was sown in 1940. In the summer of 1945 the seedlings were prepared for their first test forcing early in 1946; Messrs. D. Eveleens-Maarse and W. Maarse participated in making the initial 15 selections. The first of the final selections were introduced in 1954; one of these was named 'Martine' in honor of its hybridizer.

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## Lilac cultivars originated by Martine Spaargaren

*Syringa vulgaris* L.

- '**Martine**', Spaargaren 1954 S I  
Marchal, Jaarverslag Proefstation Aalsmeer, 120 [1954]; Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4):82 [1963]  
Named for Martine Spaargaren, plant breeder, Proefstation Aalsmeer, 1936-1940  
Awards: Award of Merit 1954  
cv. name registered 1963.
- '**Niobe**', Spaargaren 1958 S I  
Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4):82 [1963]  
cv. name registered 1963.
- '**Spring Glory**', Spaargaren 1957 S V  
Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4):83 [1963]  
cv. name not established; name registered 1963, but not reported in cultivation.
- '**Voorzitter Buskermolen**', Spaargaren 1954 S II  
Marchal, Jaarverslag Proefstation Aalsmeer, 120 [1954]; Tuinbouwgids 1955, 712 [1955]; Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4):83 [1963]  
Named for Gerardus Buskermolen [1891-1983], prominent Aalsmeer grower and chairman of the board of the Proefstation voor de Bloemisterij [1931-1958]  
Awards: Award of Merit 1954  
cv. name registered 1963.
- '**Westend**', Spaargaren 1956 S I  
Wister, *Arnoldia* 23(4):83 [1963]  
Named for the Westend, the Aalsmeer neighbourhood renowned for its production of forced lilacs  
cv. name registered 1963.

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### ABBREVIATIONS:

S-Single flowers D - Double flowers

#### COLOURS

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| I White    | V Pinkish  |
| II Violet  | VI Magenta |
| III Bluish | VII Purple |
| IV Lilac   |            |

& bicolour [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

/ colour combinations [e.g. III/VII for bluish-purple; V-VI for pinkish to magenta]

\* cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage

? information incomplete

Cultivar names appearing in **bold type** have been registered



## The MAARSE(N)S OF AALSMEEER AND THEIR LILACS

(Fiala, *Lilacs - the genus Syringa*, pp.189, 209, 210 [1988]; revised and updated by Freek Vrugtman)

Even to a former Netherlander the family names Eveleens Maarse, Maarse and Maarsen, and their various generations can be confusing. A few explanations may be in order.

The family name of Maarse is a very common one in Aalsmeer, and since the choice of Christian names was traditionally quite limited, identical names were not infrequent. Having identical names could be confusing, or even costly where it concerned erroneous business transactions. Solving their particular problem of identical names some generations ago, one Maarse added HZN (Hendrick-zoon, or son of Hendrik) to his name, while his namesake added Jbzn (Jacob-zoon, or son of Jakob) to his name. These distinguishing postscripts have been retained by their respective descendants.

The Dutch abbreviation "Fa" stands for "Firma" and translates to "firm", "concern" or "house", referring to the family business. "Gebr." Is the equivalent of the English "Bros."

There is absolutely no direct relationship **whatever** between the person Dirk Eveleens Maarse and the firm of Eveleens & Maarse; for details see below.

The assistance of several correspondents in The Netherlands gathering information on site is gratefully acknowledged.

**Gerrit Maarse [1885-1978]**, florist at Aalsmeer (Fa G. Maarse Jbzn), was the originator of the lilac 'Yellow Wonder', known today as 'Primrose'. 'Primrose' was the first foreign developed lilac to be patented in the USA (Plant Patent No. 1108, June 24, 1952); its story is well worth telling. In war-time Holland, in the winter of 1943, in the hothouse of Fa G. Maarse Jbzn, plants of 'Marie Legraye' were being forced for bloom. 'Marie Legraye' is a single white lilac commonly used for forcing. One flowering branch produced four thyrses, 1 ½ of which bore yellow florets. In a letter Gerrit Maarse writes:

"All the leaf-buds of the branch in question were removed, as also were the two white and the one partly yellow clusters. That left only the one yellow flower cluster. This was also cut off but not the part below on which small leaf-buds occurred, one of which we hoped would develop. The entire shrub was kept in the hothouse for the spring and summer and, as was hoped, there developed a small shoot at the place mentioned above. This shoot provided material to allow us to graft ten plants in the following year. To our pleasure they all bloomed yellow."

Anyone familiar with the turmoil of the final year of World War II in The Netherlands will realize that is a miracle that this lilac selection survived. The name 'Yellow Wonder' appeared with a description in the 2 July, 1949 issue of *The Gardener's Chronicle*; the color of the buds described as pale barium-yellow (*RHS Colour Chart* 503/3); the open florets of similar color but slightly paler. Sometime between February 1949 and

May 1950 the name was changed to 'Primrose', the name by which this lilac has been known ever since. 'Primrose' received a Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Award of Merit in 1949 and a Royal Dutch Horticultural and Botanical Society (KMTP) First Class Certificate in 1952/53.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Primrose', Maarse, G. 1949; S I

syn - 'Yellow Wonder'; probably includes 'Primrose' (Holden)  
{mutation of 'Marie Legraye'}

Gardener's Chron., July 2, 1949, P. 1 - as 'Yellow Wonder'; Anon., Jour.  
RHS 75(9):413

[1950]; G. Maarse, US Pl. Pat. No. 1108 [June 1952]; Wister, Lilacs for  
America, 39

[1953]; Eveleens Maarse, Dendron 1 (1):13 [1954]; Vrugtman &  
Eickhorst, Lilacs - Proceedings 9:28-30 [1981]

Introducer: J. Spek, Boskoop

cv. name registered 1953.

**HENDRIK (HENK) MAARSE [1900-1971]** of Aalsmeer originated  
'Miss Aalsmeer', a single, violet lilac.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Miss Aalsmeer', Maarse, H., ca. 1943; S II

Wister, Lilacs for America, 35 [1953] - Cert. Of Merit 1943; Fiala, Lilacs,  
106, 209 [1988] - erroneously as a D. Eveleens Maarse origination  
cv. name registered 1953.

**J. D. MAARSE**, or Fa J. D. Maarse en Zoon, a nursery operated at the  
time by the brothers Jacob [1899-1969] and Albert Maarse [1902-1998],  
originated 'Gloire d'Aalsmeer', a single, white lilac, introduced about 1938.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Gloire d'Aalsmeer', Maarse, J. D. 1938; S I

syn - 'Glory of Aalsmeer'

{mutation of 'Marie Legraye'}

Dijkhuis, in Gedenkboek J. Valckenier Suringar, p. 128 [1942]; Wister,  
Lilacs for America, 30 [1953]

cv. name registered 1953.

**P. & G. MAARSEN**, or Fa Gebr. P & G Maarsen, a nursery operated  
by the brothers Poulus [1888-1954] and Gerrit Maarsen [1892-1972],  
originated 'Prinses Beatrix', a single white lilac, introduced about 1938.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Prinses Beatrix', Maarsen, P. & G., 1938; S I

Dijkhuis, in Gedenkboek J. Valckenier Suringar, 128 [1942]; Wister,  
Lilacs for America, 40 [1953]

cv. name registered 1953.

**MAARSE & KEESSEN;** Jaap Maarse Hzn [contemporary; Fa Eveleens & Maarse], and his son Hendrik Maarse Hzn [ contemporary; Fa Eveleens & Maarse], and the late Hendrik (Henk) Keesen [1915-1990; Fa Keessen Hameland], and his brother Gerritt Keessen [ no dates; Fa Keessen Hameland] of Aalsmeer are nurserymen who have been interested and active in selecting and testing improved clonal lilac rootstock since the early 1980s. The first selections, 'A1' ("Robusta"), 'A2' and 'A3', were released in 1994 for limited testing as tissue culture propagated rootstock for lilacs produced for greenhouse forcing. The trials have been scheduled to continue until the year 2002. No cultivar names have been chosen and registered for these rootstock selections. Though the name 'Robusta' has appeared in print it must be rejected since cultivar epithets may not consist solely of a common descriptive (adjectival) word.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'A1', Maarse & Keessen

syn - 'Robusta', 'Robuuste Albert'

{a rootstock selection made 50 to 60 years ago at the Fa Eveleens & Maarse, Aalsmeer}

Sytsema, Proefbeschrijving [1990]; Rijsewijk, Boomkwekerij 45/1994;24-25 Deutsche Baumschule 7/1995, 321 - clonal rootstock selected for ease of propagation by tissue culture

cv. name not established.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'A2', Maarse & Keessen 1990

{a rootstock selection made 50 to 60 years ago at the Fa Eveleens & Maarse, Aalsmeer}

Sytsema, Proefbeschrijving [1990]; Rijsewijk, De Boomkwekeriz, 45:24-25 [1994]

cv. name not established.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'A3', Maarse & Keessen 1990

{a rootstock selection made 50 to 60 years ago at the Fa Eveleens & Maarse, Aalsmeer}

Sytsema, Proefbeschrijving [1990] Rijsewijk, De Boomkwekerij, 45:24-25 [1994]

cv. name not established.

**DIRK EVELEENS MAARSE SR. [1881-1975]** was born to a nurseryman's family at Aalsmeer (Fa W. Topsvoort). After finishing primary school Dirk started working in the nursery and received his first horticultural training at the Uiterweg-School. When the State Horticultural Winter School at Aalsmeer opened its doors in 1897, the sixteen-year-old was admitted to its inaugural class. Upon graduation Dirk spent six months in the United States of America after which he returned to Aalsmeer to work at Topsvoort nursery. Topsvoort had a long tradition in producing

clipped plants of *Taxus baccata* and *Buxus sempervirens*; clipped topiary yews, the taller ones often several decades old, were in great demand for formal gardens in the United States and Britain. World War I wiped out this export market. For some years Dirk had been interested in dahlias, cultivating them between the topiary plants; he now started to make his own crosses and selections. Sometime during the 1920s he became interested in lilacs. Based on his breeding experience with dahlias he developed a strategy, and in 1938 Dirk Eveleens Maarse could introduce the first of his lilac novelties, namely 'Excellent', 'Johan Mensing' and 'Sensation'. Being very conscious of the importance of quality he made it his policy to introduce only the very best. He would submit his unnamed selections for judgment by the Special Committee of the Royal Netherlands Horticultural Society; only those seedlings and sports that were distinguished with an Award of Merit (A. M.) or the prestigious First Class Certificate (FCC) would be named and introduced commercially. In the 1950s he took a leading role in creating the Aalsmeer "Seringenpark". The first substantial collection of lilacs in The Netherlands.

*Syringa vulgaris* '**André Csizik**', Eveleens Maarse 1950; S VI

syn - 'André Czizic'

{ 'Ambassadeur' × 'Hugo de Vries' }

Wister, Lilacs for America, 25 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, Dendron 1(1):12 [1954]

Award of Merit 1950

cv. name registered 1953.

*Syringa vulgaris* '**Burgemeester Loggers**', Eveleens Maarse 1961; S II

{ 'Maréchal Foch' × 'Ambassadeur' }

Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):80 [1963]

cv. name registered 1963.

*Syringa vulgaris* '**Burgemeester Voller**', Eveleens Maarse 1948; S II

{ 'Excellent' × 'Johan Mensing' }

Wister, Lilacs for America, 26 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, Dendron 1(1):12 [1954]

Award of Merit 1948

cv. name registered 1953.

*Syringa vulgaris* '**Directeur Doorenbos**', Eveleens Maarse 1955; S IV

{ 'Excellent' × 'Johan Mensing' }

Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]

cv. name registered 1963.

*Syringa vulgaris* '**Director General van de Plassche**', Eveleens Maarse 1961; S VI

syn - 'Director General Van Der Plassche', 'A. W. van de Plassche', 'Jr. Am Van de Plassche'

{ 'G. J. Baardse' × 'Excellent' }

- Wister, *Arnoldia* 23 (4):81 [1963] - as 'Director General Van Der Plassche'  
cv. name registered 1963.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Excellent**', Eveleens Maarse 1938; S I  
{ 'Jan van Tol' × 'Mme. Florent Stepman' }  
Dijkhuis, *in* Gedenkboek J. Valckenier Suringar, 128 [1942]; Lilacs for America 29 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 9(1):11-12 [1954]  
First Class Certificate  
cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Flora 1953**', Eveleens Maarse 1953; S I  
syn - 'Flora', 'Flora White'  
{ 'G. J. Baardse' × 'Excellent' }  
Lilacs for America, 29 [1953] - as 'Flora'; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):12 [1954]; Eveleens Maarse, *Gartenwelt* 54(23):? [1954];  
Tuinbouwgid 1954, 440 - as 'Flora'; Fiala, Lilacs, 91, 209 Pl.72 [1988]  
- as 'Flora'  
Award of Merit 1953  
cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Gerrie Schoonenberg**', Eveleens Maarse 1948; S I  
{ 'Maréchal Foch' × 'Excellent' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 30 [1953]; *Dendron* 1(1):12 [1954]  
Award of Merit 1950  
cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**G.J. Baardse**', Eveleens Maarse 1943; S VI  
syn - 'G.J. Baardse', 'G.J. Baardse'  
{ 'Ambassadeur' × 'Hugo de Vries' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 30 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):12 [1954]  
Award of Merit; First Class Certificate 1953  
cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Hugo Mayer**', Eveleens Maarse 1950; S III  
{ 'Decaisne' × 'Ambassadeur' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 31 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):12 1954  
Award of Merit 1948  
cv. name registered 1953
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Johan Mensing**', Eveleens Maarse 1938; S II  
syn - 'Johann Mensing'  
{ 'Marie Legraye' × 'Mme. Florent Stepman' }  
Dijkhuis *in* Gedenkboek J. Valckenier Suringar, 128 [1942]; Wister,  
Lilacs for America, 32 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):12 [1954]  
Award of Merit; First Class Certificate 1942  
cv. name registered 1953

- Syringa vulgaris* '**Jonkheer G. F. van Tets**', Eveleens Maarse 1940; S IV  
 {mutation of 'Hugo de Vries'}  
 Wister, Lilacs for America, 32 [1953] - erroneously as 'Jonkheer G. P. van Tets'; Eveleens Maarse, Dendron 1(1):11 [1954]  
 First Class Certificate 1950  
 cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**J. R. Koning**', Eveleens Maarse 1955; S IV  
 Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]  
 cv. name registered 1963.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Madame Rosel**', Eveleens Maarse; S IV  
 syn - 'Mme. Rosel'  
 {'Maréchal Foch' × 'Hugo de Vries'}  
 Wister, Lilacs for America, 36 [1953]; Dendron 1(1):12 [July 1954];  
 Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):81 [1963]  
 Award of Merit, First Class Certificate 1953  
 cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Maud Notcutt**', Eveleens Maarse 1956; S I  
 \_ syn - 'White Superior' (?)  
 {'Excellent' × 'G. J. Baardse'}  
 Anon., Jour. RHS 82:449 [1957] & Extracts Proc. RHS 82(2):23 [1957];  
 Gartenwelt 58(2); [Jan. 18, 1958]; Wister, Arnoldia 23(4):82 [1963]; R.  
 C. Notcutt Ltd., Book Cat. Of Nursery Stock 2:84 [1964]  
 cv. name registered 1963.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Nanook**' Eveleens Maarse 1953; S I  
 Wister, Lilacs for America, 37 [1953]  
 Award of Merit  
 cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Peerless Pink**', Eveleens Maarse 1953; S IV  
 {'Excellent' × 'Johan Mensing'}  
 Wister, Lilacs for America, 38 [1953]; Tuinbouwgids 1954,440 - in Dutch  
 Award of Merit 1953  
 cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Riet Bruidgom**', Eveleens Maarse 1950; S I  
 {'Reine Elisabeth' × 'Mme. Florent Stepmann'}  
 Wister, Lilacs for America, 40 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, Dendron 1(1):12 [1954]  
 Award of Merit 1950  
 cv. name registered 1953.
- Syringa vulgaris* '**Sensation**', Eveleens Maarse 1938; S VII & I  
 syn - 'Sensācija' (not Paarsteigums)  
 {mutation of 'Hugo de Vries'; periclinal chimera}



Wister, Lilacs for America, 41 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):11 [1954]; Eveleens Maarse, US Pl. Pat. No. 1242 [Jan. 19, 1954]; Pearson, *Landscape Trades*, 52-53 [1992]  
First bicolor lilac selected  
First Class Certificate  
cv. name registered 1953.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Topsvoorts Giant', Eveleens Maarse 1953; ? ?  
Topsvoort New Lilac Introduction, Fa W. Topsvoort, flyer [ca.1953]  
cv. name not established.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Treesjo Topsvoort', Eveleens Maarse 1948; S IV  
{ 'Maréchal Foch' × 'Hugo de Vries' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 42 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1):12 [1954]  
Award of Merit, First Class Certificate 1953  
cv. name registered 1953.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'Voorzitter Dix', Eveleens Maarse; S VI  
{ 'Ambassadeur' × 'Maréchal Foch' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 43 [1953]; Eveleens Maarse, *Dendron* 1(1): 12 [1954]  
Award of Merit 1950, First Class Certificate 1953  
cv. name registered 1953

*Syringa vulgaris* 'White Giant', Eveleens Maarse 1953; ? I  
Topsvoort New Lilac Introduction, Fa W. Topsvoort, flyer [n.d.; ca. 1953]  
cv. name not established.

*Syringa vulgaris* 'White Superior', Eveleens Maarse; S I  
{ 'G. J. Baardse' × 'Excellent' }  
Wister, Lilacs for America, 44 [1953]; *Tuinbouw gids*, 440 [1954]  
Award of Merit 1953 -  
cv. name registered 1953.

#### Additional references consulted:

- Anon., 1972. Dirk Eveleens Maarse. *Newsletter* (ILS) 1(2):19.  
Anon., 1954. Bekroningen *Tuinbouw gids* 1954, pp. 439-440.  
de Jong, P. 1995. in lit. de Jong to Vrughtman [August 10, 1995]  
Dijkhuis, J. 1942. in *Gedenkboek J. Valckenier Suringar*, p. 128.  
Eveleens Maarse, D. Sr. 1953. Meine neuen Fliedersorten. *Deutsche Baumschule* 5(3):71, 72, 74.  
Eveleens Maarse, D. Sr. 1954. Some remarks on my new lilacs. *Dendron* 1(1):11-13.  
Eveleens Maarse, D. Sr. 1954. Fliedersorten für die Treiberei. *Gartenwelt* 54(23):.  
Fopma, J. 1995. in lit. Fopma to Vrughtman [April 6, 1995; August 9, 1995; September 18, 1995].  
Hettterscheid, W. 1995. in lit. Hettterscheid to Vrughtman [August 23, 1995].  
Maarse, G. 1950. in lit. in lit. Maarse to Maatsch [December 30, 1950].  
Paul, L. 1974. Er is in zeventig jaar veel veranderd in Aalsmeer. *Vakblad voor de Bloemisterij* 29(17):31.  
Pearson, H. M. 1992. Plant of the month. *Landscape Trades* p. 52-53 [June 1992].  
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- Rijsewijk, V. van. 1994. Teeltduur sering kan twee jaar korter. *De Boomkwekerij* 45:24-25.
- Sahin, Z. K. T. 1975. News from Holland. *The Pipeline* (ILS) 1(12): last page.
- 't Hart, M. J. (editor). 1983-1995. Aalsmeerse Stambomen. Aalsmeer, Stichting "Oud Aalsmeer".
- 't Hart, M. J. 1997. in lit. 't Hart to Vrugtman [Jan.27, 1997; March 15 and June 21, 1999].
- Vrugtman, F. & W. E. Eickhorst, 1981. The history of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Primrose'. *Lilacs - Proceedings* 9:28-30.

## ABBREVIATIONS:

S - Single flowers

D - Double flowers

### Colors

I White

V Pinkish

II Violet

VI Magenta

III Bluish

VII Purple

IV Lilac

& bicolour [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

/ - colour combinations [e.g. III/VII for bluish-purple; V-VI for pinkish to magenta]

\* cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage

? information incomplete

Cultivar names appearing in **bold type** have been registered.

## Addendum to THE HULDA KLAGER LILACS REVIEWED

(LILACS, Summer 1999, p. 77)

The following entry was left out inadvertently and should be inserted on page 77, following the entry for 'Mariam Cooley'. My sincere thanks to Reva Ballreich for alerting me to this omission. Reva commented that in her opinion 'Martha' is the most fragrant of all the Hulda Klager lilac selections.

S I **'Martha'**, Klager 1930 VULGARIS

Wister, Lilacs for America, 52 [1942], 35 [1953]; ILS Newsletter 14(4):3-4 [1988]

cv. name registered 1953.

## Lilac Cultivar Name Registration 1998

All correspondence concerned with additional information or plants or popagules of newly registered lilac cultivars should be directed to the registrants 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 lists 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; 31(3):327-328; 32(4):587-588; 33(4):588-589].

*Syringa*  $\times$  *chinensis* Willdenow 'Lilac Sunday' was registered 7 Feb. 1998 by John H. Alexander III, Plant Propagator, The Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, USA. The ortet (original plant), accessioned as AA 224-79\*E and AA 127-96, was selected by Alexander from seedlings grown from seed of unknown parentage, and named in 1996. History and description of 'Lilac Sunday' have been published in *Arnoldia* 57(1):12-13 and back cover illustration [1997]. Plants are propagated easily from cuttings and have been distributed by The Arnold Arboretum since Sept. 1997. A standard portfolio has been opened at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, but is still incomplete.

## Report from Descansco Gardens

By Rudy Shaffer

Rudy shares with us two lilac pictures. The first is of 'Lavender Lady' taken near Pasadena. Note the palm - *Washingtonia robusta* Mexican Fan Palm in the background.



*Syringa hyacinthiflora* 'Chiffon' with fasciated floret



'Lavender Lady' introduced from Descansco Gardens. Note the Palm *Washingtonia robusta* Mexican Fan Palm in the background

The second picture is *Syringa* 'Chiffon' with a fasciated floret, a developmental condition that appears from time to time on many plants. If any readers also have such pictures, we would publish them.

As an aside, 'Chiffon' has 'Lavender Lady' in its background and 'Lavender Lady' itself is the product of a number of crosses. Readers may wish to check: Pringle, *Lilac Quarterly Journal* 24 (4): 97-99 [1995]; and Vrugtman, *Hort Science* 31(3): 328 [1996].

## 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.

WU GUOLIANG; YANG ZHIHONG; LIU QUNLONG [The biological characteristics of flowering and pollination in early lilac and its white flowered variety.] *Journal of Beijing Forestry University* (1998) 20 (2) 118-120 [Ch. en. 3 ref.] Department of Horticulture, Shanxi Agricultural University, Taigu 030801, China.

Observations on the flowering biology and pollination tests on early lilac (*Syringa oblata*) and its variety (*S. oblata* var. *affinis*, white-flowered) were carried out at Shanxi Agricultural University in 1995-97. The flowering period for a single inflorescence was 5-7 days and that of the whole tree was 7-11 days in the white variety; it was 1-2 days later for the early lilac species. The percentage germination of fresh pollen of *S. oblata* was 2.7-5.6% and that of *S. oblata* var. *affinis* was 5.5-15.0%; in both cases germination was close to 0% after 24 h of storage at room temperature. Percentage fruit set following natural pollination was quite high in *S. oblata* and its variety *affinis* (53.2% and 51.7%, respectively). Although lilacs are naturally cross-pollinated plants, the fruit set percentages following artificial self pollination were high (63.5% for *S. oblata* and 67.2% for *S. oblata* var. *affinis*). Furthermore, the percentages following artificial cross pollination were also high (79.8% for *S. oblata* (♀) × var. *affinis* (♂), 67.6% for var. *affinis* × var. *affinis*, 65.8% for *S. oblata* × *S. oblata*, and 60.8% for var. *affinis* × *S. oblata*).

*Plant Breeding Abstracts* 1999, Vol. 69 No. 1 page 249

SCHOLTEN, H. J. Effect of polyamines on the growth and development of some horticultural crops in micropropagation. *Scientia Horticulturae* (1999) 77 (1/2) 83-88 [En, 7 ref.] Wageningen Agricultural University, Department of Horticulture, Haagsteeg 3, 6708 PM, Wageningen, Netherlands.

The effect of presence of polyamines in the culture medium on the micropropagation of *Acacia mangium*, tomato cv. Dombito, *Sulcorebutia alba*, and *Syringa vulgaris* cv. Madame Florent Stepman was investigated. When the growth regulator 2iP [isopentenyladenine] was omitted from the medium of *S. vulgaris*, putrescine could partly compensate for the 2iP-stimulated stem elongation. With *A. mangium* an interaction between the growth regulator (IBA) and putrescine was found. The optimum concentration of putrescine in the medium was in the range 0.1-1.0 mM. The response to spermidine was similar to that to putrescine. Spermine had a negative effect at all concentrations tested.

*Plant Growth Regulator Abstracts* 1999, Vol. 25 No. 1, page 21

SZLACHETKA, W.; BARTOSIEWICZ, A.; PRABUCKI, A. [Effect of forcing date in the period between November and April on flowering of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* cv. Mme. Florent Stepman).] Wpływ terminu pedzenia na kwitnienie lilaka zwyczajnego (*Syringa vulgaris* L.) cv. Mme Florent Stepman w okresie od listopada do lutego. *Folia Universitatis Agriculturae Stetinensis, Agricultura* (1998) No. 70, 137-142 [Pl, en, 5 ref.] Katedra Roślin Ozdobnych, Szkoła Główna Gospodarstwa Wiejskiego, ul. Nowoursynowska 166, 02-787 Warszawa, Poland.

Effect of a forcing date on flowering of lilac (cv. Mme Florence Stepman) was

investigated in 1995-96 in Warsaw, Poland. Lilacs were forced starting on 12 different dates from October to April. The most valuable flowers were obtained in December, January and February while flowers of a poorer quality were those forced from the first date (October). The forcing date did not affect either length and fresh weight of inflorescences or panicle size and this was true for single, double, triple and quadruple panicles. Lilacs needed to be forced for 4 weeks in November and 3 weeks starting from December (for only 2.5 weeks in April). Results showed that the most difficult task was to make lilacs flower in November and December and the least difficult in April.

*Horticultural Abstracts 1999, Vol. 69 No.6 page 701*

## **Tips for beginners**

**My grandmother's lilac has "run out". It used to be a double dark purple but now it is a single dirty white. What happened?**

In your grandmother's day lilacs were frequently grafted onto seedling lilac rootstalks which, if the seedlings were vigorous, would send up shoots from their roots and eventually crowd out the original cultivar stems. Nowadays lilac plants are propagated to be on their own roots and the problem mentioned above would not happen since all parts of the plant - top and roots - are all of the same cultivar.

If your lilac still has any stems which have purple flowers you can, annually, cut out the white flowering stems and encourage the purple flowering stems with a handful of 5-10-10 fertilizer each year (See Vol. 27 No. 3 of **Lilacs**) for fertilizer recommendations.

Any stems bearing purple flowers will be darker than those that are going to have white flowers and you can use this as a guide as to which stems to remove. Since removal of white flowering stems will be an annual chore, you may want to consider total removal of the whole bush and its replacement with one of the newer dark purple cultivars.

P. S. From all of the above, you can see why the ILS recommends that all new plantings be on their "own" roots.

# International Lilac Society

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