

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

IN
THIS
ISSUE:

Membership List

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Life	250.00

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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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With great pleasure I tell you that Tatiana Poliakova has accepted my invitation to take the position of Regional Vice President for Russia and the rest of Asia. She already co-operates with Tom Thekathyl in Tasmania on Tom's website at www.lottah.com, where pictures of fine new Russian cultivars can be seen, so I am quite happy that, between them, they can cover Australia as well. I have been too busy recently with affairs of state but I hope, soon, to be able to co-operate with Tatiana, her sister Irena who does all our translating, and Dr Lyakh in Siberia, to bring out another "Russian Diary".

I would like to remind all Canadian members that the Canadian account has been closed and that dues should be paid directly to Assistant Treasurer William Tschumi. If you are unsure how to do this please consult Bill directly.

Today, as I write (on 16th November 2004), I received the new edition of the Journal carrying my appeal for a volunteer to come forward to act as Editor. If no one does, then I can see no alternative to hiring someone commercially to do the job. If I have to do that, then there will be a heavy drain on our reserves. I told you last time that the cost of printing and posting the Journal now exceeds our membership revenue. It is vital that we have a volunteer from within the Society.

In that edition, I also asked for help in expanding membership because the more members we have, the more revenue we have to invest in improvements to the website and the Journal. I know the changes that I want to see to the website, but I am less certain about which way to go with the Journal. It is an absolute that we must keep up a high level of academic rigour but, intuitively, I feel that we fall down in providing features, articles and news which are more "user-friendly".

In the last edition, Kent Millham fulfilled a promise he made to me a few months ago, to make the effort to provide an article for the Journal. The result was his excellent feature on the remarkable Richard Fenicchia in the last edition which was not only a first class addition to our archive but an example of what is possible when digging into the fascinating reserves of one's own experience.

Let me tell you something. The very first words I ever had published in my life were in this Journal in a letter to the Editor (**LILACS**: Vol. 19, No4, Fall 1990, p.99). I have now lost count of how many articles I have had published, or how many features which have made me their subject. I told you two years ago how I opened a magazine in a superstore in Tucson AZ and found my lilacs looking out at me. Well, that shows that from little acorns mighty oaks do grow. So why not each of you try your hand at writing because you never know where it might lead you. Get a letter in to the Editor. Tell us about your favourite lilac. If you have bought rare lilacs at the auction tell us how they are doing and describe their flowerings. If you have an idiosyncratic way of dealing with a lilac problem then share it with us. I am driven to distraction by the damage done by hares and deer but I almost fell off my chair with laughter when Regional Vice President Roger Wood described in a letter his antics in chasing black bears away by brandishing an axe handle. I am sure that some of you must have confronted an elk in the lilac grove or perhaps, possibly a Yeti. Tell us your news. Share with us your wisdom and insights. Pick up your pens and make the Journal more human. You never know what might happen. A beginner's tentative paragraph published now in **LILACS** might lead to a first novel - and a six-figure film contract!

Well, we can all dream can't we? How about a lurid paperback which is set in the shady world of lilac growers, dealers, pushers and.....sniffers? Now there's an idea. Oh Ho! Just you watch this space. Million Hollywood bucks, here I come!

Colin Chapman
President
16 November 2004

COVERS

Front Cover: 'Michel Buchner' (introduced by Lemoine in 1885). This cover looks like shaving cream snow at Bill Horman's Sunny Fields Farm, Emmett Township, MI. Photo Credit Bill Horman

Back Cover: 'Adelaide Dunbar' Fall foliage. Photo credit Colin Chapman at Norman's Farm. (See Colin's comment in his International Newsletter 2)

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The next issue deadline will be March 8th. It will have a tight turnaround since it contains information on the 2005 convention and election of members to the Board of Directors.

QUARTERLY REMINDER

Dues were due in December. Have you sent a renewal to Bill Tschumi? One of our members suggested that ILers share through publication in *Lilacs* their experiences. Too often we look only at flowers. Maybe we should open our eyes and imaginations further to find special aspects of our attachment to lilacs. Think of a day or time when lilacs were combined with something, some happening so powerful or meaningful that lilacs became very much etched into your memory. Share your memory with fellow members in *Lilacs*. (Note from William Horman)

EDITOR'S NOTES

The picture of a lilac in the fall issue of *Lilacs* (Vol. 33, No. 4 Page 127) should be labeled "Single lavender from Mackinac Island" (not le printemps)

Also Freek Vrugtman tells me that the correct name for *
Cupressocyparis leyandii in the list of plants susceptible to Honey Fungus on page 126 of that same fall issue is *Cuprocyparis leyandii*. He goes on to explain:

"It has all to do with the discovery in northern Vietnam of the new genus and species *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis* Farjon and Hiep, that created a stir in the conifer world."

There! You've learned something new today!

Colin Chapman writes that the photo credit for the action photo of him and the gun-slinging Big John should be given as Tim McCauley who used Colin's new camera, so that..."it is my first digital picture to be published."

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER 2

In his poem "Ode to Autumn", John Keats wrote:-

"Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;"

I love the spring, when the Northern Hemisphere rouses itself and throws off the mantle of winter and bursts through with fresh green growth. Our lilac is justly revered in the vast continental latitudes as the harbinger of the end of deep winter and the start of the productive year. Little did I know when I began my association with this plant that almost every social community along the line from Seattle to Vladivostok, held a lilac festival to greet the new growing season. I thoroughly agree with garden writer E. M. Bowles who said that if he ever encountered the magical talking fish, the first of his three wishes would be to stop the clock one morning in mid-May for a whole month. I agree. To have for myself, for a period of a whole month, those wondrous moments when the lilacs are in full bloom and when their fragrance impregnates air which tastes like chilled champagne, that would make me purr like a contented kitten and allow me to get on with the evaluation work I should be doing, but don't, because I am constantly seduced and diverted by first, this particular beauty, and then that one.

Yes, I adore the spring, but I adore the autumn also. In this country we do not have a "Fall", we have an autumn. The difference is subtle yet profound, so I must give you a brief lesson in climatology in order to explain.

During the periods from about October 25th to October 30th, and between November 10th and 16th, our weather is usually abominable. One study recorded this consistently from 1889 to 1940 and, certainly in my memory, some of the worst storms - including the 1987 hurricane - occurred within these dates. It seems that the jet stream does something objectionable at this time like dumping newly chilled Arctic air onto warmer Atlantic air coming up from the sub-tropics, and that sets off storms which pass over Britain.

Depending on the season, our trees usually begin to colour in mid September. The process is slow and accompanies two things. The first is the glorious ripening of our top fruit. The greengage plums, taken fresh from the tree are, to me, possibly the greatest flavour that God has ever given to Earth, but then I must agree that the apples and pears of late September and October run them close. The second feature of this season is the gradual deepening sense of melancholy which takes over the English psyche as the year begins to die and does so in such glorious tones of gold and bronze and pink and ochre.

Then, just as we are about to revel in a similar colour display that the season brings to New England in particular, and continental North America in general, those darned storms strike and strip the trees of their leaves just as they are approaching their prime. Please note that I am writing this on October 28th.

This morning I took digital pictures of my Japanese maple which is now the colour of burnt caramel, and of my *Sorbus sargentiana* which had leaves the same colour as its bright red-orange berries. I then decided that I would photograph the spectacular colours of *Zelkova serrata*, *Gleditsia* 'Sunburst', and '*Betula medwedewii*' in the evening when the sun is low and shining through the leaves. At mid-day, however, the seasonal storm struck, and by nightfall there was not a leaf left on these trees worth photographing. Now you know why we get melancholy.

Last year, however was different. The summer was so dry that the trees shut down in early August and this trapped sugars in leaves in quantities that were not normal. The leaves began to colour and because there were nearly two full months to the storm season, the leaves had the chance to develop and deepen that colour. They grabbed that opportunity with both hands (to slightly mix a metaphor). We had probably our most spectacular autumn colour of all time and that, of course, instead of leading us to rejoice sent the nation spinning into a paroxysm of guilt about global warming.

The lilacs were not so sentimental. They saw their opportunity to show once and for all that they were not beyond a spectacular display. With the leaves hanging on the shrubs for two months beyond shut down, and with plenty of photochromic chemicals still on board, the lilacs went into a sublime display of colour, the likes of which I have never seen before. I could have chosen many pictures to show. 'Mulatka' had the finest colour but it was a small plant. There were others better, but I chose 'Adelaide Dunbar' because the composition is good, the colour is superb, and it is fitting that the "Dark Lady of Rochester" should represent this magical moment.

For most of this year, our efforts have been directed to colonising the new land. We started with five plants in a "Havemeyer" bed but it immediately became obvious that we not only had a problem out there with rabbits and hares but with roe and muntjac deer also. We thus switched our attention to the boundaries.

The site is a right-angled triangle with one side being our fence, alongside which we had planted the shelter-belt for the old garden. This fence has now been removed. The second side follows an old deep ditch, which has been the boundary between two farms since time immemorial. The hypotenuse, 300 yards long, runs up a gentle hill across open arable land in full view from the road. Our contract decreed that we should erect a stock proof fence but that would have been such an eyesore that I conceived something much more romantic. I got the idea from studying a local estate

map from medieval times that showed the boundaries as double hedgerows. I also know from the ancient Tudor part of our garden that hedges were often made of native fruiting wild plants. We have relics of a hedge of bullace, which is our rare native wild plum.

I have put in, five feet apart, a row of native shrubs selected for blossom, fruit and autumn colour. Each plant is protected, but next year the first stage of our rabbit proof fence will be placed directly in front so that the plants will grow into it and obscure it. Ten feet inside that hedge I have planted an informal, zig-zag row of very old cultivars of top fruit on semi-dwarfing rootstock. This will form an allee, where I can inform groups of children from local schools, who have never heard of a sloe, a medlar or a mulberry, and also perhaps make them aware that milk does not come from cartons or eggs from dimpled boxes. I might even tempt the Gods to forsake their favourite brew of Ambrosia and try instead a glass or two of Shelagh's Sloe Gin. If they do, they will never return to their former habit.

Half way along there will be a park size seat. This will look out upon my third row, which will be my "Lilac Hall of Fame". It will start with a wild collected *Syringa vulgaris*, followed by S.v. var alba and S.v. var purpurea. The lilac story will be picked up in sequence with 'Azurea Plena', the first verified double lilac, and 'Macrostachya' - which brought pink into the lilac palette. Then will come early cultivars bearing their originator's names like 'Ekenholm' and 'Marie Legraye' and then 'Charles Baltet' and 'Victor Lemoine' and onwards through the sequence of great lilac breeders to contemporary times using those lilacs which also bear their names - Kolesnikov, Fiala, Skinner, Gardner, Heard, Vekhov, Mikhailov, Galimnova etc. Imagine then, sitting on that seat one beautiful May morning, with the earphones in place and listening to the tape I will make to describe the whole show, and then think of what first wish you might have asked of that magical talking fish had you encountered it. This row of lilacs will follow the whole triangle around and be about a third of a mile long. The hall of Fame will merge into my fifty best lilacs and then on to any other delights that I might conceive. The lilac world will be my oyster and I am going to have a great time putting it together. Inside the triangle will be my tribute beds of the best lilacs of all the breeders that I have in this collection.

This is the reason why I put back a visit here for a further year. I want the basic design to be in place for you to see. That, and the time to clear out the barn so that, as in Nebraska, we too can use it as the location for a rustic BBQ lunch.

Colin Chapman
Wyverstone
Suffolk
October 30th 2004

Dear Colin:

2004 will be known as a year of ups and downs in lilacdom at Descanso Gardens. The volunteers did a perfect job of deadheading, general pruning and weeding after the blooming season. Lilacs started to act up after a cold spell in August followed by heat in Sept. The plants did not know how to react and we had a lot of premature flowers in late August and September.

The Garden visitors were happy to see deer mingling with people. At the same time the deer started to graze on everything from camellias, agapanthus and yes on the beautiful lilacs' tender new rootlet growth. Luckily deer can't fly. Fences were installed but the damage was already done. Another hot spell brought perhaps the best ever late summer blooming season one could only dream about.

Lilacs are a special breed of plants and will fend for themselves. Because of our location we have to find the golden medium in pruning. In other words not to over prune. With that we had to say amen and put the pruning tools away.

After 10 years working with the lilacs at Descanso we found that the hyacinthifloras are our main dish. Very dependable season after season. The inclusion of *vulgaris* made the blooming season so much more attractive, however not as constant in performing. A number of oblatas sticking their necks out as the early birds added beauty with their fall color. The syringa persica with their split leaves created the elegant hedge for the lilac garden.

We continue with the caring of 8 lilacs in large pots in a trial period. This adds color to the garden as the staff can move the pots to certain locations.

We do indeed have a great collection and find that most of our visitors nationally and internationally are most appreciative.

May 2005 be a great year for all of you to share the beauty of lilacs with everyone wherever you are.

Rudy Schaffer

Wishing you and yours a very happy holiday season
The Descanso Lilac volunteers
Joyce Kjarsgaard

2005 CONVENTION INFORMATION

Boston, Massachusetts, May 12, 13 and 14, 2005

Jack Alexander and Steve Schneider, co-chairing the convention - tel. 617-524-1718
alexandr@arnarb.harvard.edu, sschneid@arnarb.harvard.edu.

Our hotel, the Boston Marriott Quincy, is just outside of the city of Boston in Quincy, MA, near major highways and ample free parking.

[Http://www.QuincyMarriott.com](http://www.QuincyMarriott.com).

Only 8 miles from downtown Boston and 12 miles from Logan International Airport, in the historic city of Quincy. Guest amenities include a Concierge Level, business center, health club, pool, sauna and whirlpool.

Getting there:

http://www.massport.com/logan/getti_typeo_taxis.html#M

Driving from the North, Boston or from Logan Int'l airport:

Follow I-93 S south to Exit 7 (route 3); immediately take Exit 18 (Braintree/Quincy), bear Left off ramp (at sign "T" Train station /Quincy), follow to traffic lights and turn Left onto Center St., then immediate Left into Crown Colony Park; the Hotel is ¼ mil on Left.

Taxi from Logan Int'l Airport, expect to pay \$35 - \$40 one way.

From the West: Mass Pike (I-90 E):

Exit 14 onto I-95 South (MA-128) toward South Shore/Cape Cod., 13 miles; (Caution, I-95 exits right, and straight ahead becomes I-93 N) Take I-93 North (US 1 North) toward Braintree/Cape Cod 7 miles to Exit 7 and follow directions above

From the South: I-95 North to Exit 12, I-93 North (US 1 North, toward Branetree/Cape Cod 7 miles to Exit 7 and follow the directions above.

Note: If you plan to rent a car, consider flying into Providence, RI (South of Boston) or Manchester, NH (North of Boston.) These airports are smaller, friendlier and easier to access, but getting from them to the hotel by taxi will cost approx. \$100 one way.

The cities of Boston and Quincy have an abundance of historical, cultural and entertainment attractions. You may wish to extend your stay to allow time to visit some of them.

<http://attractionguide.com/boston/>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g60745-Activities-Boston_Massachusetts.html

<http://www.historictours.com/boston/default.htm>

<http://www.discoverbostontours.com/>

<http://www.bostonducktours.com/>

A good historical look at Boston

Pre-settlement: <http://www.iboston.org/mcp.php?pid=taleOfTwoBostons>

Post-settlement: <http://www.umkc.edu/imc/boston.htm>

2005 Convention – Tentative Agenda

Thursday, May 12

10:00 – 1:00 Registration

10:00 – 12:00 Directors' Meeting (see also 6:30-8:30 PM)

1:15 Board Buses to Adams National Historical Park – Home of 2 Presidents <http://www.nps.gov/adam/> See gardens, including lilacs, planted by Abigail Adams. http://www.ppplants.com/magazine/articles/articles_ne/39/39.html

5:00 Buses return to Marriott

5:00-9:00 Registration

5:30-8:30 Directors' Meeting

Friday, May 13

8:00 board Buses to: Syringa Plus <http://www.syringaplus.com/>
John Thurlow's "hobby" lilac nursery

Newbury Perennial Gardens and Nursery

<http://www.newburyperennialgardens.com/>

Lunch and Annual Meeting

King's Tree Farm and Nursery

5:30 Return to Marriott

7:00 President's Dinner followed by speaker

Saturday, May 14

7:30 – 8:00 Directors' Meeting

8:15 Board Buses to Arnold Arboretum

http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/plants/lilac_intro.html

Linger in this lilac collection whose oldest plant, a Japanese tree lilac, dates from 1876. It is believed to be the oldest specimen of *Syringa reticulata* in North America.

Bus Tour of Arboretum

Speakers

Lilac Tour

Lunch

Speaker

Auction

5:00 Return to Marriott

7:00 Awards Banquet

Sunday, May 15

OPTIONAL – additional fee, see registration form.

10:00 Buses to Arnold Arboretum for Lilac Sunday Celebration

2:30 Buses return to Marriott

Sunday, after the official end of the Convention, thousands of Bostonians, young and old, will be enjoying Lilac Sunday at the Arnold Arboretum. It is the day when Boston's populace gathers to usher out winter and celebrate spring, by reveling among the blooming lilacs.



The Auction Committee is soliciting donations of rare and unusual lilacs to sell at the annual convention.

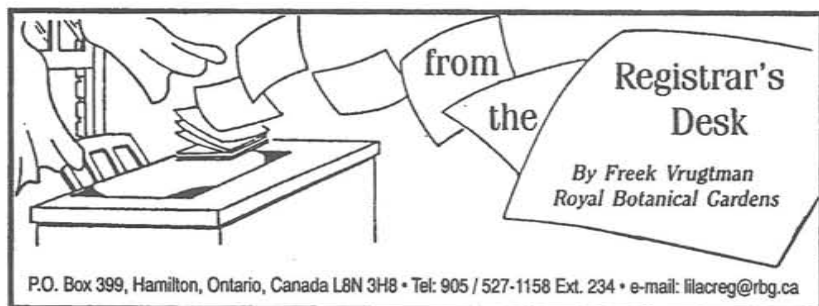
Please contact Woody Barnes

PO Box 1570

Julian, CA 92036-1570

Phone 760-765-0516

Fax 760-765-0547



Syringa reticulata subsp. *pekinensis* 'Jin Yuan'
a new Cultivar from China
by Freek Vrugtman

Registered in 2003 with the Office for the Protection of New Varieties of Forest Plants of the State Forestry Administration in Beijing, People's Republic of China, 'Jin Yuan' is one of the two named selections of Peking tree lilac that are making their entry to gardens and collections.

Since cultivar names, or varietal denominations in legalese, registered by statutory registration authorities are considered registered also under the provisions of the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) 'Jin Yuan' is a registered cultivar name. Statutory registration authorities work under the auspices of UPOV (*L'Union internationale pour la protection des obtentions végétales* or The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants). UPOV is an intergovernmental organization with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. UPOV was established by the International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants; the Convention was adopted in Paris in 1961. The objective of the Convention is the protection of new varieties of plants (cultivars) by an intellectual property right.

We do not yet have full information on this new cultivar; however, since some ten-thousand plants are already in production in China, it seems timely to share what information we have.

The earliest publication we have seen about this selection is in the book "Lilacs" by Cui Hongxia (in Chinese), published in 2000. At the time Ms Cui was a graduate student at the Beijing Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Cui refers to this selection by the cultivar name 'Bei Jing Huang'. The picture, in the introductory pages of the book are not sharp and probably not true to colour.

More recently Dr. [Mr] Donglin Zang, University of Maine, and Dr. Michael Dirr, formerly University of Georgia, refer to this new selection in text and photos on the internet. They use the cultivar name "Beijing Huang".

Guo Ling, director of New Plant Introduction, Beijing Botanical Garden (North Garden) writes that the name first chosen, 'Beijing Huan', had been rejected since Chinese plant breeders' rights regulations do not allow cultivar epithets containing place names. 'Jin Yuan' (golden garden in translation) became the final choice. Ms Guo reports that the flowers of 'Jin Yuan' are golden yellow and very fragrant, florets single. The original plant from which this clone derives was selected from seedlings raised from seed of *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* collected by [Mr] Dong Baohua in the Beijing mountains.

References:

Cui Hongxia. 2000. The Lilac. (in Chinese). page 50 and illustration; 'Jin Yuan' is listed as 'Bei Jing Huang'.

Cui Hongxia, personal communication.

Guo Ling, personal communication.

Zang, Donglin, and Michael Dirr. 2004. Potential New Ornamental Plants from China. SNA Research Conference Volume 49, plant Breeding & Evaluation Section 601. Text posted on <http://www.umaine.edu/maineplants/MyPub/SNA04China.pdf>. Photos posted on <http://www.umaine.edu/maineplants/sna04dz.pdf>. - 'Jin Yuan' is listed as 'Beijing Huang'.

LILAC CULTIVAR NAME REGISTRATION 2003

Freek Vrugtman¹

Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3H8, Canada

All correspondence concerned with additional information of plants or propagules of newly registered lilac cultivars should be directed to the registrants listed below, not to the Registrar.

Commencing with Lilac Registrations 1995 standard portfolios are being established in accordance with Division V: Nomenclatural Standards, of the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*, Seventh Edition (ICNCP-2004).

Previous registration lists of *Syringa* cultivar names appeared in *AABCA 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; 34(4):600; 35(4):549; 36(5):836; 37(7):1145; 38(6):1301.

***Syringa* L. 'Spokane'** (*S. vulgaris* × *S. ×hyacinthiflora*) was registered 31 Dec. 2003, by M. L. Peterschick, 37307 Old SR 195, Rosalia, WA 99170, USA, and R. Ballreich, P.O. Box 1804, Idyllwild, CA 92549, USA. The original plant, the ortet (#3-203), originated from the controlled cross *S. vulgaris* 'Tita' × *S. ×hyacinthiflora* 'Mary Short' made by R. Ballreich, and selected in 1995. In July 1999 members of the Spokane Lilac Society chose #3-203 for introduction, naming it for the city of Spokane, WA. Initial vegetative propagation took place in 1998; the preferred methods of propagation are through softwood cuttings and tissue culture. Plants have flowered in the third year after propagation. Initial distribution of the clone took place in 2000; initial propagation by tissue culture in 2003 at Briggs Nursery, Olympia, WA. The cultivar name 'Spokane' was first published in 2002. Three-year old shrubs are about 1.5 m tall. Thyrses 15 to 20 cm long and 10 to 12 cm in diameter; florets staminode double, 1.5 cm in diameter. Flower buds are magenta; flowers open to magenta pink, lighter pink silver white when fully open. Very fragrant. Foliage green, tipped burgundy-bronze when young. Known to be hardy in USDA Zones 5 to 8. A standard portfolio has been opened at Royal Botanical Gardens Herbarium, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, but is still incomplete. Literature reference: Peterchick, M.L. 2002. *Lilacs - Quarterly Journal* 31(3):73.

***Syringa* L. Villosae Group** was registered 30 Sept.. 2003, by Mr. M. H. A. (Marco) Hoffman, Applied Plant Research, Unit Nursery Stock, P.O. Box 118, 2770 AC Boskoop, The Netherlands. This Group is based on the botanical series *Villosae* C.K. Schneider. Cultivars of the Villosae Group are shrubs with upright habit, 1.5 – 5 m high; leaves simple, entire, large, up to 10 – 25 cm, oblong, elliptic to (ob)ovate, often with rough texture, glabrous or more or less hairy underneath; thyrses from a terminal bud, large, up to 15 – 40 cm long; corolla tube slender, longer than the lobes; flowering period relatively late. *S.* 'Royalty' has been designated nomenclatural standard for the Villosae Group. Examples of Villosae Group cultivars are 'Agnes Smith', 'Alice Rose Foster', 'Basia', 'Bellicent', 'Danusia', 'Donald Wyman', 'Esterka', 'Goplana', 'Hiawatha', 'Jagienka', 'James Macfarlane', 'Lynette', 'Minuet', 'Miss Canada', 'Nike', 'Nocturne', 'Redwine' and 'Royalty'. The suggested way of writing cultivar names is: *Genus* (Group) 'Cultivar', e.g. *Syringa* (Villosae Group) 'Royalty'. Users have the choice of leaving out the Group part, e.g. *Syringa* 'Royalty'. First published: Hoffman, M.H.A., *Syringa Villosae Groep, sortimentsonderzoek en keuringsrapport. Dendroflora* 39:104-119(2002) (in Dutch, summaries in English and German), actual date of

publication: September 2003; cultivar group name established and accepted.

Corrigendum

Syringa vulgaris L. 'Lee Jewett Walker'

The cultivar name "Lee Jewett Walker" was registered in 1978 (Vrugtman, F. AABGA Bull. 13(4):110; 1979). There is convincing evidence that Mr. Kenneth Berdeen made an error when filling in the registration form in 1978, describing his selection 7-22 as having double and pink florets. The flowers are single and pink (S V). More detailed information can be found in Vrugtman, F., *Lilacs-Quart. Jour.* 32(4):149[2003] and 33(1):20[1003].

Contribution No. 120, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

¹⁾ International Registrar, International Cultivar Registration Authority
Genus *Syringa* L.

GRAFTED LILACS

by Frank Moro
Executive Vice President, ILS Canada

When was the last time you purchased a fruit tree, a rose shrub, a dwarf or rare evergreen, a grape vine or a non-specie tree for your garden. Did you know that all these are usually grafted! Grafting usually, in the above cases, improves hardiness. In the 1860's almost all grape vines in Europe were lost to the grape phylloxera louse. That is when grafting started in the European vineyards. A few years ago I submitted an article on grafted lilacs and am rewriting one for this issue with a lot more experience.

Lilacs are propagated in different manners; root division, softwood cuttings, tissue culture and grafting. With over 25 years now in the nursery industry working for large wholesale companies and working on our own at Select Plus Nursery, I have had the chance to gain much experience.

There are some people who are against grafted lilacs. Maybe when the plant has only one year under it's belt I agree, but after the second year when a good graft is done it will stand up to any lilac. Last winter, 2003-2004 we had a lot of rain in the fall and a huge freeze with little snow coverage after. We lost more than usual amount of one-gallon lilacs that were from softwood cuttings or tissue culture. But our one-gallon grafted lilacs were not affected. Thus came the theory I have been internally supporting, that a grafted lilac on a late root stock such as *prestoniae* can withstand more damaging winters concerning poor drainage or colder weather.

I still prefer to propagate by softwood cutting myself, but sometimes to secure new or rare cultivars this is the way to proceed. Once the younger graft is sunk a little deeper into a one-gallon or three-gallon pot the reshoots from the under graft become almost non existent and the original scion wood roots on it's own.

Tissue culture lilacs are usually bushier plants from a younger age.

Softwood cuttings can take an extra 1 - 2 years to flower. They have to build a good root system first. They must go through their juvenile period first.

Shoot divisions, as we have all heard the stories, can take many years to flower.

Grafted lilacs can flower much more rapidly since the root system below is already established. The only thing is, we should be aware of a grafted plant so we know how to properly prune it. It is a skill to learn and much more costly to do than other forms of propagation.

So what we must appreciate is the availability of lilacs. Losing a cultivar to extinction is losing genetic material we will never be able to get back. Keep your nametags or keep a record of what you purchased.

LILAC WITCHES' BROOM

by Craig Hibben

I read with interest Freek Vrugtman's recent note (Lilacs Quarterly Journal 33[4]:114-115) on the introduction of two new cultivars, *Syringa* × *prestoniae* 'Charisma' and *S. × prestoniae* 'Shantelle'. Both cultivars appear to have been derived from witches'-brooms on *S. × josiflexa* 'Royalty'. These symptoms usually are diagnostic for Lilac Witches'-Broom (LWB), a disease caused by phytoplasmas, formerly called mycoplasmalike organisms. Indeed, phytoplasmas were identified in tissue samples from 'Charisma'.

I agree with Freek's recommendation not to add LWB cultivars to healthy lilac collections, for the following reasons:

1. Plants infected by phytoplasmas usually show abnormalities in growth and flowering, and remain infected for the life of the host. Infected plants also are predisposed to injury from non-biological stresses, such as drought and low winter temperatures.
2. LWB has a wide host range in *Syringa*, having been identified in 19 species and hybrids.
3. Ash yellows (AshY), a widespread disease of white ash and other species of *Fraxinus*, is also caused by phytoplasmas. By DNA analysis techniques the LWB and AshY phytoplasmas have been identified as closely related. This means that LWB may spread both among susceptible lilacs, and between lilacs and alternate ash hosts.
4. Phytoplasmas are transmitted by phloem-feeding insects, most commonly leafhoppers; also planthoppers and psyllids. AshY phytoplasmas have been detected in two leafhopper genera, but the exact insect transmitters of LWB have not been reported.
5. So far, the only practical control measures for LWB are roguing infected shrubs and preventing the introduction of infected plant material into healthy lilac collections.

The Lilac Farm

By Wayne and Millie Hughes

Dr. Rogers:

Yes, it's true, The Lilac Farm will close after one more spring season, probably about the first of June, 2005. The reason being that Millie and I are now in our late 70s and we would like to retire. We want to be able to take Sunday afternoon drives and maybe take a few days off without feeling guilty about closing the gate. We might even come up your way to see the fine lilacs. We will still remain here and this will still be The Lilac Farm, but we will not operate a business. If some of our old friends want to stop and look around, that's fine as long as they don't count on our being available.

I'm always happy to tell the story about the beginning of "The Lilac Farm". I suppose the real origin could be dated 1975. That year I took a bus tour of Europe. Starting in Zurich then to Vienna, through Liechtenstein to Munich. The tour was in September, and in Vienna and Liechtenstein there were lots of lilac bushes with lots of ripe seed pods just ready to be picked. I picked several seed pods, put them in my pocket, got them back through customs, planted them and the darn things grew; I was hooked.

At the time I worked at NASA as an aerospace engineer near Washington. To help relax on weekends, I purchased a piece of unoccupied land in Virginia and there I planted lots of lilacs. In 1988 NASA said, "you can retire and go home now", so I moved to northwestern Pennsylvania where Millie and I now have "The Lilac Farm". The name is registered with the state as my alias. We didn't really mean to start a business, we just wanted to grow some lilacs and a place where people could just come and look around. At first we grew plants from open pollinated seeds. We obtained seeds from France, Germany, Denmark, as well as places like Thomas Jefferson's estate in Virginia.

We soon found that when visitors came to our place, they wanted to take lilac plants home to their gardens. So we sold some. Then we found out that what we were really selling was memories. Everyone

remembered a big old lilac bush their mother or grandmother had. They remembered warm spring days and big bouquets and the unforgettable fragrance that filled the home. They also remembered the color and they wanted a plant to replace the memory. We just had to start growing and selling some of the famous and beautiful named varieties. We found that of all the thousands of plants we started from seeds, a few of them were truly outstanding, so we selected several and reproduced them for sale. Among those we have propagated is, 'Mr. Wayne', a single very large dark purple flower; 'Miss Millie' whose flower is comparable to the color chart in Susan McKelvey's Monograph chart #2 xxvi pale rose or D-V. We also have a pale yellow we call 'Sunny', and a very full light pink 'Mary Ellen' that has as many as 18 petals on each flower.

As you might probably have guessed by now, we like lilacs. We just don't want to be in business anymore. We want to slow down.

The Lilac Farm
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