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**International Register and Checklist of Cultivar
Names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae)¹**
(“Work-in-Progress” Lilac Register)

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

STARTING POINT FOR CULTIVAR AND GROUP NAMES

The starting point for cultivar and Group names in *Syringa* is Susan D. McKelvey *The Lilac: a Monograph*, Macmillan, New York, published December 1, 1928; this decision, originally made by the Nomenclature Committee at the XII International Horticultural Congress (Berlin, 1936; Congress Proceedings 1:459-460 and 2:1515-1516; 1939) has been endorsed by the ISHS Commission Cultivar Registration (Special Commission), which appoints the International Cultivar Authorities (ICRA's), for which the ILS is now the ICRA for the genus *Syringa*.

In 1941 the Sub-Committee on Lilacs, of The Committee on Horticultural Varieties, The American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums, under the chairmanship of John C. Wister (1887-1982), conducted a survey of lilacs cultivated in North America. *Lilacs for America-Report of 1941 Survey* was published by the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation in April 1942. The Sub-Committee drew up a Color Classification for Lilacs, commonly referred to as the “Wister code” (see below). Though this classification has been useful for grouping lilac cultivars by color, it is inadequate for description and identification of cultivars.

CULTIVAR NAME REGISTRATION

The Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA, was designated International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* in 1958 by the Fifteenth International Horticultural Congress (Nice, France); John Casper Wister (1887-1982) was appointed Registrar. In the early 1970s Wister was assisted by Joseph (Joe) W. Oppe (1932-2012). Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was designated by the Nineteenth International Horticultural Congress (Warsaw, Poland, 1974) to succeed the Scott Foundation on 1 January 1975; Freek Vrugtman was appointed Registrar, and served until 2019.

Cultivar names of lilacs validly published in accordance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*-1953 (ICNCP-1953) in the following publication are listed as “presumed registered 1953”, provided they were accompanied by a description, and provided they were documented as being in cultivation:

Lilac Survey Committee (J. C. Wister, chairman) of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums. Oct. 1953. *Lilacs for America - report of the 1953 lilac survey*. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, A. H. Scott Horticultural Foundation. This publication has been referred to as: **Wister, Lilacs for America [1953]**. See also: Anon., Lilac Registrations (mimeogr. list), 1 [n.d.; ca. 1968].

Additional cultivar names have been registered since 1963. For publication of these registrations see:

Wister, J. C. Supplementary registration list of cultivar names in *Syringa* L. -Registered1963. *Arnoldia* 23(4):77-83 [1963].

Anon. Registrations 1965. *International Lilac Registration* (mimeographed publication),p.4 [n.d.; ca. 1968].

Wister, J. C. More plant registrations - Lilac registrations. *Arnoldia* 26(3):13-14 [1966].

- - 1967 Lilac registration. *Arboretum and Botanical Garden Bulletin* 1(2):19-20 [1967].

Anon. Registrations 1967. *International Lilac Registration* (mimeographed publication),p. 5 [n.d.; ca. 1968].

Wister, J. C. and J. Oppe. 1970 Lilac registrations. *Arnoldia* 31(3):121-126 [1971].

Vrugtman, F. Lilac registrations 1976, 1977 and 1978. *AABGA Bulletin* 3(4):105110[1979].

- Lilac registration 1979. *AABGA Bulletin* 14(3):95 [1980].
 - Lilac registration 1980. *AABGA Bulletin* 15(3):71-72 [1981].
 - Lilac registration 1981. *AABGA Bulletin* 16(4):131-132 [1982].
 - Lilac registration 1982. *AABGA Bulletin* 17(3):67-69 [1983].
 - Lilac registration 1983. *AABGA Bulletin* 18(3):87 [1984].
 - Lilac registration 1986-87. *HortScience* [23(3):458 [1988].
 - Corrigenda - Lilac registration 1986-87. *HortScience* 24(3):435-436 [1989].
 - Lilac registration 1989. *HortScience* 25(6):618 [1990].
 - Lilac registration 1990. *HortScience* 26(5):476-477 [1991].
 - Lilac registration 1993. *HortScience* 29(9):972 [1994].
 - Lilac registration 1995. *HortScience* 31(3):327-328 [1996].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 1996. *HortScience* 32(4):587-588 [1997].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 1997. *HortScience* 33(4):588-589 [1998].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 1998. *HortScience* 34(4):600 [1999].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 1999. *HortScience* 35(4):549 [2000].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2000. *HortScience* 36(5):836 [2001].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2001. *HortScience* 37(7):1145 [2002].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2002. *HortScience* 38(6):1301 [2003].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2003. *HortScience* 39(6):1524 [2004].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2004. *HortScience* 40(6):1597 [2005].
 - Correction - Lilac cultivar name registration 2004. *HortScience* 42(1):5 [2007].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2005. *HortScience* 42(1):5 [2007].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2007. *HortScience* 43(3): [2008].
 - Lilac cultivar name registration 2009. *Hanburyana* 5:5-7 [2011].
- Iwanycki, N. Nomenclatural Standards deposited in the Herbarium of Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton (HAM), Ontario, Canada. *Hanburyana* 6:6-8 [2012].
- Vrugtman, F. Lilac cultivar name registration. *Hanburyana* 7:25-31 [2013].
- Planned: New lilac cultivar name registrations 2017. *Jour. Cult. Plant Diversity* 1: [2020].

It must be emphasized that despite being registered and published in the papers listed above several names were never “established” (validly published) in accordance with the IC-NCP. For detailed information see the files **International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.** and **Appendix E.**

Outdated and only of historical interest are the following publications:

- Rogers, O. M. 1976. *Tentative International Register of cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* L.* Research Report Number 49, New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, USA; supplemented by
- Vrugtman, F. 1990. *Addenda & corrigenda to the Tentative International Register of cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* L.* Contribution No. 73, Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

INTRODUCTION

The format of the **International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae)** (Lilac Register for short) largely follows that of Owen M. Rogers' *Tentative International Register of cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* L.* [1976] (pp. iv-viii) which, in turn was patterned after *Lilacs for America* [1942 and 1953] compiled under the chairmanship of John C. Wister. It has been modified by Freek Vrugtman during his tenure as Registrar and his format has been retained.

First line:

Cultivar epithet followed by Group epithet if applicable and/or lower taxonomic unit.

Registered cultivar epithets appear in bold type (e.g. '**Michel Buchner**'); non-registered epithets appear in normal type (e.g. 'Prairie Gem').

Cultivar names originally published in Cyrillic and Chinese have been transliterated (romanized) or appear in pinyin, respectively. Japanese names have been transliterated.

Group names appear in round brackets (Villosae Group). This is the only Group name established, accepted and registered in the genus *Syringa*. For definition of Villosae Group see Appendix F, summary of classification, Series *Villosae*.

Botanical names, here referred to as the "lower taxonomic unit", appear in italics. This may vary from simply *S.* (for *Syringa*), to *S. vulgaris* (genus and species), *S. oblata* subsp. *dilatata* (genus, species and subspecies), *S. vulgaris* var. *purpurea* (genus, species and botanical variety), and *S. ×hyacinthiflora* (named interspecific hybrid or nothospecies).

Cultivar names originally published in Cyrillic script have been recorded on an additional Sub-line (first added April 12, 2016).

Second line:

Originator and year introduced, followed by the flower form (single or double) and Wister Color (for explanations see below).

Nota bene: The "year" is not always a reliable date; revisions are frequent, depending on information available.

Subsequent lines may provide information on:

--flower and bud colors in the LCS and ISCC-NBS color systems, when available (for explanations, see Appendix I).

--common name or synonymy: syn. - (or any other designations used for this cultivar).

--parentage: { × }

--literature citations.

--photo on Jorgovani/Lilacs 2015 DVD—This notation indicates that one or more photographs of the cultivar can be found on the DVD, second, revised and expanded edition, compiled by Želimir Borzan and Charles Holetich.

Disclaimer: The identity of the cultivars photographed may or may not have been confirmed.

--Name: Notation on etymology, derivation or meaning of the cultivar name.

--Awards: notation on awards received (RHS = Royal Horticultural Society, UK; KMTP = Royal Society of Horticulture and Botany, NL.)

--notation on establishment, acceptance and registration of the cultivar name.

--notation if it is known as a lilac for forcing.

--other notations

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

Wister Code: 1942 system for flower color only, chosen by hybridizer. No definitions were originally chosen, but RGB digital codes have been added by your Registrar based on photos of typical cultivars chosen by Tatiana Poliakova to represent each group and digitally sampled.

I-White	II-Violet	III-Blue	IV-Lilac	V-Pink	VI-Magenta	VII-Purple
255,255,255	189,172,226	202,211,244	247,224,255	249,201,243	212,126,179	205,160,223

ABBREVIATIONS:

S - Single flowers D - Double flowers

COLORS

I White (255,255,255)

II Violet (189,172,226)

III Blue or Bluish (202,211,244)

IV Lilac (247,224,255)

V Pink or Pinkish (249,201,243)

VI Magenta (212,126,179)

VII Purple (205,160,223)

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

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

* cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage; ? = information incomplete

ABRÉVIATIONS:

S - fleur simple D - fleur double

COULEURS

I blanc V rosâtre

II violet VI magenta

III bleuâtre VII pourpre

IV lilas

& bicolore [*par exemple VII & I pour pourpre et blanc*]

/ - combinaison de couleurs [*par exemple III/VII pour bleuâtre-pourpre; V-VI pour rosâtre à magenta*]

* cultivar avec feuillage panaché et/ou dore

? information incomplet

Épithètes de cultivars en **caractères gras** ont été enregistrées

ABKÜRZUNGEN:

S - einfache Blüten D - gefüllte Blüten

FARBEN

I weiß

V blaßrosa

II violett

VI magentarot

III bläulich

VII purpurrot

IV lila

& zweifarbig [z.B. VII & I für purpurrot und weiß]

/ - Übergangsfarben [z.B. III/VII für bläulich-purpurrot; V-VI für blaßrosa bis magentarot]

* Sorte (Cultivar) mit panaschierter und/oder goldfarbiger Belaubung

? Information unvollständig

Fett gedruckte Sortennamen sind registriert**Additional comments**

The color classification, commonly referred to as the "Wister code", was drawn up by the Committee on Horticultural Varieties of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums sometime between March 1941, (appointment of the Committee) and April 1942 (publication of the Report of the 1941 Survey) and was first used in that Report; *Lilacs for America*, pp. 9 & 31 [1942]. In the 1942 publication the Roman numerals I through VII are used, as they have been subsequently in *Lilacs for America*, 1953, and O. Rogers, *Tentative Register*, 1976. However, in addition the Committee subdivided: IIIa - Blue, & IIIb - Bluish Lilac; IVa Lilac & IVb - Light Lilac; and Va - Lilac Pink & Vb - Pink. These subdivisions of II, IV and V were not carried over to subsequent publications.

Cultivar names originally published in Chinese, Cyrillic, and Japanese script have been transliterated (Romanized) to the Roman alphabet; standards are provided by the current edition of the *ALA-LC Romanization Tables* published by the United States Library of Congress, which can also be found on the Website <<http://lcweb.loc.gov/catdir/cpsd/romanization/russian.pdf>>, and by the system for transliterating Russian cultivar names into English adapted and applied by C. D. Holetich for his translation of Rubtzov, Mikhailov and Zhogoleva's *Lilac species and cultivars in cultivation in USSR*, Kiev, Naukova Dumka (in Russian); this paper appeared in *Lilacs - Special Issue* 11(2):1-38 [December 1982]. Some Cyrillic characters are transliterated by using two or more Latin characters, such as я = ya; ю = yu; ш = sh; ч = ch, and so on. Whenever this is the case the Latin characters have been underlined. For example, the Latin ya will transliterate to the Cyrillic я, rather than to the individual characters ы and а. The Latin transliteration of the Cyrillic character ш is underlined twice: shch, distinguishing it from ш = sh and ч = ch appearing side by side.

Diacritical marks have been retained as they appeared in the various original languages of publication. It is the opinion of this Registrar that diacritics are an integral part of any language that requires their use. Diacritics are essential for correct pronunciation. In some instances, diacritics, or their absence, may be the only distinguishing feature between two similar cultivar names (example: 'General Pershing' and 'Général Pershing').

Cultivar status is indicated by enclosing the cultivar epithet between single quotation marks (‘. . .’); trade designations, breeders' designations and cognomina are not cultivar names.

Originators are listed by family name; initials are added if there are two or more originators with the same family name. Full names and brief biographic notes can be found in Appendix D.

The precise **year of introduction** is not always easily determined from records and available literature. If not specified, dates given by various authors may be the year of the hybridization (pollination of seed parent, and collection of the seed), the year of seeding, the year of “discovery” (first observation of flowers), the year of selection, naming, first non-commercial distribution, first distribution for commercial propagation, or commercial introduction! Often, it can only be determined the year before which we know the cultivar was introduced.

Line two of most entries lists the **botanical affiliation**.

NOTE: Nothotaxa (hybrids) with validly published names are listed here; information on the parentage of other, unnamed interspecific hybrids is provided as a hybrid formula and can be found in the subsequent lines. In cases of open pollination, the male or pollen provider (%) appears as “?”.

Subsequent lines will list synonyms (syn -), trademarks (™ or ®), common names, and parentage ({ × }), whenever such information is applicable and available.

For the purpose of the International Register and Appendix G **common names combine colloquial names, common names and vernacular names**, as defined in the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-2009* (Glossary, p. 140). The names listed are those seen in the literature consulted when compiling the International Register.

Colloquial name - a name that is used locally but not widely enough to be recognized in the general dictionaries of the language concerned.

Common name - a name widely or locally used in any language in place of a scientific name. Included in this category are the “standardized common names” proposed by the American Joint Committee on Horticultural Nomenclature, H.P. Kelsey and W.A. Dayton, eds., in *Standardized Plant Names - A rev. and enl. listing of approved scientific and common names of plants and plant products in American commerce or use*. Harrisburg, PA, J. Horace McFarland Co., 1942, second edition. Although the principle of standardizing common names has never been accepted, many of the common names proposed in *Standardized Plant Names* can be encountered in horticultural literature and trade catalogues of the 20th century.

Vernacular name - a translation of a scientific (Latin) name into a local language.

Cyrillic spelling—if the cultivar name was published originally in Cyrillic characters, and if available, this spelling has been added.

Trademarks and trade designations used as marketing devices appear in SMALL CAPITALS not enclosed by single quotation marks; trademarks and trade designations **are not cultivar names**. Examples of trademarks: ‘Delreb’ RÊVE BLEU™, ‘DTR 124’ SUMMER CHARM®, ‘Monore’ BLUE SKIES®, and ‘Krasavitsa Moskvyy’ SCHÖNE VON MOSKAU™.

Subsequent lines may provide additional information on:

- literature citations;
- photo on Jorgovani/Lilacs 2015 DVD – This notation indicates that one or more photographs of the cultivar can be found on the DVD compiled by Želimir Borzan and Charles D. Holetich. Disclaimer: The identity of the cultivars photographed may or may not have been confirmed;
- notation on etymology, derivation or meaning of the cultivar name;
NOTE: Translations of cultivar names are not cultivar names!
- notation on awards received (RHS = Royal Horticultural Society, UK; KMTP = Royal Society of Horticulture and Botany, NL)
- notation on establishment, acceptance and registration of the cultivar name;
- notation if the cultivar is known as a cultivar for forcing.

Cultivar name in **bold face** indicates that the cultivar epithet was registered, that there is a description, however brief, and that the cultivar has been documented as being in cultivation or having been in cultivation at one time. For additional information on registrations and literature references see **Appendix E**.

The original document is in Microsoft Word® (.docx) format; the font used is Times New Roman. Except for direct quotations, the language setting used is American English. Word was chosen because it offers a full set of multinational characters with all diacritics required to support correct spelling of names and literature references in many languages, as well as being the most popular word-processing software in the world. Word (.docx) documents can be “published to PDF” or Portable Document Format (.pdf); PDF files can be read with “Adobe Reader®” software which is available free of charge. A spreadsheet version of the Register with more limited but searchable information is published in Microsoft Excel®.

Please note that **this is a “Work-in-Progress” document**, not a final International Register. The “**Last updated**” notation at the head of the Lilac Register, the introduction and each of the appendices **represents the most recent date on which activities** such as additions, corrections and deletions in each file **have taken place**. The Registrar is painfully aware of the shortcomings of this document such as missing information, overlooked and/or unchecked literature references, typographic errors, and errors in transliteration.

Users are invited and urged to share their findings and corrections with the Registrar.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE

Complementing the International Lilac Register is:

LILACS: A GARDENER’S ENCYCLOPEDIA by John L. Fiala, revised and updated by Freek Vrugman.

Published in 2008 by Timber Press, Portland, Oregon, and London, United Kingdom.

ISBN: 978-0-88192-795-5. Hard Cover. 416 pages, 500+ colour photographs.

This edition features indices to Literature Cited (16 pages), Scientific Plant Names (2 pp.), Cultivar Names (11 pp.), and General Index (6 pp.); and a Glossary (3 pp.).

The first edition by J. L. Fiala was published in 1988; 266 pages.