Lilacs

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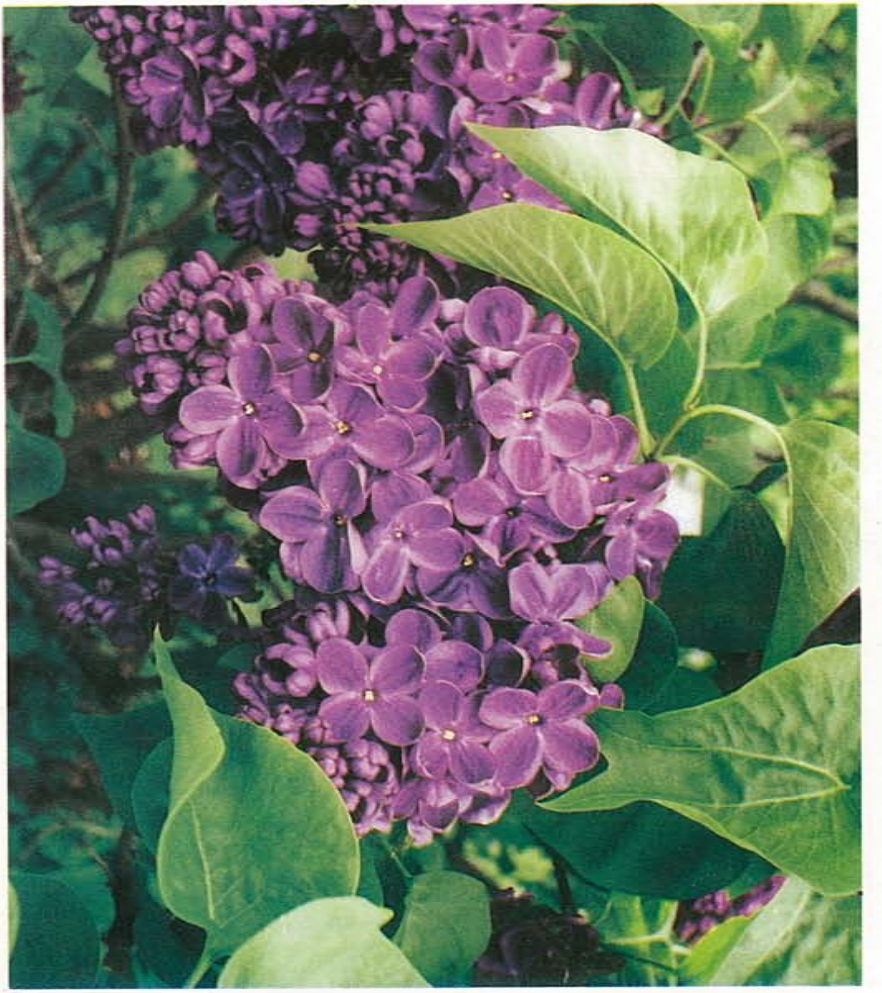

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

of the International Lilac Society

IN THIS ISSUE: Lilac Research and Reports

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Life	160.00

• Mail membership dues to Asst. Treasurer William F. Tschumi

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.

International Lilac Society Website Address: http\\lilacs.freesevers.com

LILACS 2000 PUBLISHED OCTOBER 2000

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Cover Story

Front Cover

'Agincourt Beauty'
Montreal Botanic Garden, May 2000.

Back Cover

Who says lilacs won't grow in the tropics? Brad Bittorff took this picture on the campus of the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Next Issue Deadline

The next issue is the membership issue so look up your name in last year's issue and see if any changes should be made.

The deadline will be December 8th. The issue will also include an addressed envelope for you to use in sending your dues to our new Assistant Treasurer.

Quarterly Reminder

If your lilacs didn't do well this year, you might want to consider fall fertilization. See Tips for Beginners.

President's Message

I hope the summer was constructive and fun for everyone. In the upstate New York area we have experienced an unusually wet summer with above average rainfall for May, June, July and August. Just how this has affected the lilac bud development remains to be seen. Many trees and shrubs are suffering from excess moisture and exhibit symptoms of autumn conditions. Once more the summer went by faster than I planned for, and therefore left me with unfinished and unstarted projects. I hope all of you were more successful than I.

The passing of Orville Steward both shocked and saddened Marcia and me, for I considered him a friend and mentor. I was counting on his experience and knowledge to advise me as I assume the leadership of the Society.

Orville served as host of the organizational meeting at Bayard-Cutting Arboretum and was our first President. It was at the Society's first annual meeting that I met Orville; he had a unique friendly quality that once you met him you didn't forget him. He always took time to answer your question, relate a story or ask a question of you.

I feel that I really got to know Orville during our 1987 meeting in Denver when he displayed a knowledge of the diverse plant material we encountered on our many field trips. It was here I discovered Orville to be an avid note taker, recording his observations, new plants, people, thoughts and ideas. I emulated this concept upon returning home and found it quite rewarding. However, I was not faithful to this procedure and regret it now. It was also in Denver that Orville rescued the ILS by agreeing to again serve as President. Marcia and I had an enjoyable visit with Orville and Ellen at their mountaintop home in the summer of 1996. It afforded an opportunity to experience Orville in his own plant world. For even in this relatively harsh climate he still struggled to grow unique plants, including all those lilacs he had so much fun bidding on at our annual auctions.

Orville will be truly missed by ILS, but he will always be remembered. I ask those of you who had the pleasure of his company to take a moment and reflect on a special time you shared with him... It's personalities such as this that truly make ILS a family. I strongly encourage all members to make an effort to become involved and attend our annual functions. We are a diverse group of people that happen to share an interest in lilacs, and the many true friendships developed are just a by-product of this interest.

I want to thank Bill Tschumi for agreeing to serve as Assistant Treasurer and, Nicole Jordan for filling the position of vice-president for the Southern Region.

Bob Hoepfl

In Memoriam

ORVILLE MILTON STEWARD
1926 - 2000

Founding president and board member Orville M. Steward died peacefully on July 26th. He was in his seventy-fourth year and was active until the day of his death. His interests were many, diverse and thorough. Besides horticulture and botany, he was devoted to his church, his community, his state, and to his family. He is survived by his helpmate Ellen, two sons and six grandchildren.

Orville was a Justice of the Peace, and had recently retired from the Plymouth board of Listers ("Assessors"). With Ellen he organized the Plymouth Historical Society, and the waste recycling project. He was active in town and county politics. He was a communicant of the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Springfield, VT. He was a veteran of WWII serving in the U.S. Navy. Memberships included: Huguenot Society of Vermont, The State Nurserymans Association, Penstemon Society of America, and International Lilac Society.

At Hyde Park, NY on the occasion of ILS's 25th annual meeting four surviving founders reminisced about the society's earlier days. No tapes were made nor talks recorded. It is fitting, therefore, that Orville's part be recounted more fully than that which was printed in the Autumn 1991 issue of ***Lilacs Quarterly Journal*** dedicated in his honor.

On that Saturday in May 1971 seventeen lilac lovers gathered at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Great River, NY, where Orville was Director, to see if a lilac society could be organized and sustained. Orville as host presided and each attendee offered his or her services. Walter W. Oakes became secretary; Fred Van Orden treasurer; John L. Fiala editor, the Wilders proposed and followed through on incorporation procedures. Recess was declared at noontime allowing Fr. Fiala to photograph the group and for Ellen to serve a bountiful lunch. Before dispersing the optimistic attendees adopted a name for the society and accepted the invitation of Alvin R. Grant, director of Monroe County Parks, to hold its initial meeting at Highland Park, Rochester in May 1972.

Orville's life in retrospect appears to have been of continual service to his country, to his state, to his community and to his family and friends. He loved justice and mercy and walked humbly with God. May he rest in peace.

Editor's Notes

The Society has a new Assistant Treasurer to replace Robert Gilbert who had to resign because of poor health. He is William F. Tschumi of Cohoes, New York. He will assume the office on November 1st so plan to send your 2001 dues to him.

Since the dues year for all but a handful of members runs from January to December, we will include an envelope addressed to William Tschumi as a reminder in the winter issue of ***Lilacs***.

In addition to their other contributions, Bill Horman and Peter Ely represented the Society at the Mackinac Island Lilac Festival in June of this year. They presented talks on lilacs and lilac care to enthusiastic audiences.

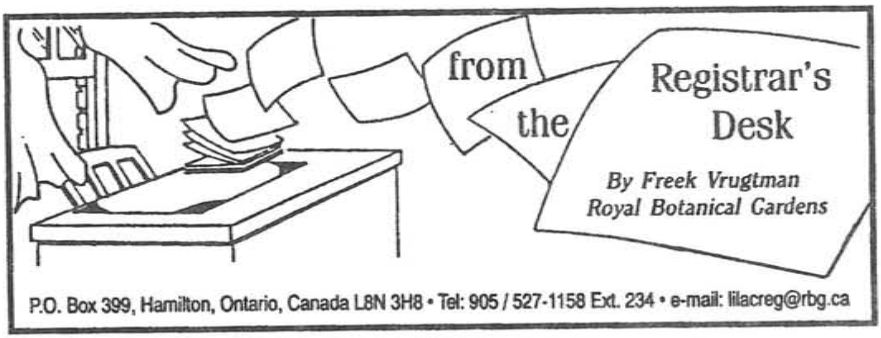
If you have presented any lilac programs in the past year or are anticipating a presentation in the future, we'd like to know about it.

Speaking about lilac talks, do you know of any lilac festivals or open houses next year? We are going to try to update the list of festivals, talks, open houses, etc. and publish it in the winter issue. Please let us know if you are presenting such a program or know of one being presented.

This issue contains two important articles that are on the "must read" list for all people who want to learn more about lilacs. The first is a follow-up to Debbie McCown's quest for a name for a new lilac. We asked Freek Vrugtman to spell out the requirements for cultivar naming and registration set up by the International Registration Authorities. The article is included in Freek's "From the Registrar's Desk". The second headliner report is from Dr. Jianhua Li of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Using the new and powerful DNA techniques, he has rearranged the series Pubescentes at the species level. This is work supported by ILS and is the first report of many that can be expected from his lab as he extends his work to cover all the species of lilacs in the other series. Perhaps, one day, we will be able to answer such questions as "What is the percentage of 'Dancing Druid'. (See Dr. James Pringle article on page 86 of the summer 2000 issue.)

Also in the issue we have included four articles written by or about lilac enthusiasts from Maine to Manitoba and south to Michigan and Illinois. Have you prepared such a lilac handout for local use or been interviewed by a newspaper? Your editor would really like to see it.

My last note is a mea culpa. In the summer issue I properly reported 'Fiala Rembrance' in Debbie McCown's article (page 75) but touted it as 'Fiala Rembꝛance' in the cover story (page 67). 'Fiala Remberance' with an e is wrong. This is how mistakes slip into the mainstream so you would do a great service to future generations if you would go back and make that correction in your summer issue.



Registration Procedures for Lilac Cultivar Names

HISTORICAL NOTE

Establishment of cultivar and cultivar-group epithets in the denomination class *Syringa* L. commences with Susan D. McKelvey's *The Lilac - a monograph*, New York, Macmillan, treated as having been published on 1 December 1928. The original proposal to use McKelvey's *The Lilac* as standard for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* was made by the Nomenclature Committee at the Twelfth International Horticulture Congress [Berlin; 1936]; see *Congress Proceedings* 1:459-460 and 2:1515-1516 [1939];

The Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA, was designated International Registration Authority (IRA) for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* in 1958 by the Fifteenth International Horticultural Congress [Nice, France]; John Casper Wister was appointed Registrar. Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was designated by the Nineteenth International Horticultural Congress [Warsaw, Poland, 1974] and succeeded the Scott Foundation on 1 January 1975; Freek Vrugtman was appointed International Registrar.

Cultivar names of lilacs validly published in accordance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1953* (ICNCP-1953) in the following publication have been accepted as "Registered", 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* (mimeographed list), 1 [no date; 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. –Registered 1963. *Arnoldia* 23(4):77-83 [1963].

Anon. Registrations 1965. *International Lilac Registration* (mimeographed publica-

tion), p. 4 [no date; 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 [no date; ca. 1968].
- - and J. Oppe. 1970 Lilac registrations. *Arnoldia* 31(121-126 [1971].
Vrugtman, F. Lilac registrations 1976, 1977 and 1978. *AABGA Bulletin* 13(4):105-110 [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]

Introduction

Registering a new cultivar name with the International Registration Authority (IRA) for Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* and publishing the name in the International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa*, or one of its subsequent Registration Lists, provides for a wide circulation of that name, reducing the possibility of the name being used for a different cultivar, or different names for the same cultivar.

New cultivar names submitted for registration are checked by the registrar against the articles of the current edition of *The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*[1] (ICNCP or Cultivated Plant Code), and against the *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus* Syringa *L. (Oleaceae)*[2], the current listing of known cultivar names.

A cultivar name cannot be registered for a single plant. The original single plant from which a clone ultimately derives must have been successfully propagated, and the characteristics of the individual members of the clone must have been compared with the original plant and found to be identical.

The *RHS Colour Chart* [1966, reprinted 1986 in association with the Flower Council of Holland, and in 1995 by the Royal Horticultural Society][3] is now a widely used standard; its use is strongly recommended. These new charts are printed by a different method and with a different system of classification than its predecessor, *Horticultural Colour Chart*, by Robert F. Wilson, published in 1941. The precise title

and edition of any colour chart used should always be stated.

Although the IRA will ensure eventual establishment for a registered cultivar name, the precedence is not fixed until publication. Registrants may thus wish to publish a new cultivar name themselves, following registration, to ensure that precedence of their cultivar name is not affected.

Individuals contemplating the registration of a cultivar name are strongly urged to consult the following publications:

1. Trehane, P., et al. *The International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants-1995.* ISBN: 0 948117 01 X.
Available at: Quarterjack Publishing, 13 Westborough, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1LT, United Kingdom; agents for the Americas: Balogh Scientific Books, 1911 North Duncan Road, Champaign, Illinois 61821, USA. URL: http://www.balogh.com
2. Vrugtman, F., *International Register of Cultivar Names in the Genus* Syringa *L. (Oleaceae).* Work-in-progress document. Contribution Nº 91, Royal Botanical Gardens.
Available at: Royal Botanical Gardens, PO Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3H8, Canada.
URL: http://www.rbg.ca
3. *RHS Colour Chart.* Published by the Royal Horticultural Society, United Kingdom.
Available at: The Mail Order Department, RHS Enterprises Ltd, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB, UK. Fax: (+44) 1483 211 003. Mail order telephone: (+44) 1483 211 320.

Additional information on nomenclature and registration of cultivated plants can be gleaned at the World Wide Web (WWW), Web site of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) at http://www.ishs.org/sci/iradirec.htm
Special attention should be given to the ***Guide for Forming New Cultivar Names.*** Readers having no access to the World Wide Web can request a printout from the author of this article.

REGISTRATION FORM

Application For Lilac Cultivar Name Registration

International Registration Authority for Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa* L.
Royal Botanical Gardens, Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8

NOTE: For reproduction in this article the "white space" has been reduced, economizing available space. When registering a new cultivar name, please request a registration form from the International Registrar.

1.1. Genus: ***Syringa*** L.

1.2. Taxon to which the cultivar belongs (if known)
species or hybrid binomial: .....
subspecies (subsp.): .....
variety (var.): .....

1.3. Proposed cultivar name (cultivar epithet): ' ..... '
[Any diacritical marks should be clearly indicated; see also ICNCP Article 29.]

1.3.1. If the cultivar has been named and described previously, but not registered, the name of the person who originally published the epithet, together with a copy of the publication or full reference to its date and place of publication: .....

1.3.2. If the epithet to be registered in a transliteration from a language not using the Latin alphabet the original form (characters) of the epithet should also be indicated: .....

1.4. Parentage
1.4.1. If a seedling, name of the female parent (seed parent), if known: .....
1.4.2. Name of the male parent (pollen parent), if known: .....
1.4.3. Age of original seedling at time of registration: .....
1.4.3.1. Year in which the original plant first flowered (or flowers were first observed): .....
1.4.4. If a sport (bud mutation), name of the parent plant: .....

1.5 Year of initial vegetative propagation of the original plant: .....
1.5.1. Number of years flowered on propagation: .....
1.5.2. Propagated plants are 100% true to the original plant in all characteristics: Yes No
Comments: .....

2.1. The original plant originated at: .....
2.1.1. Year of selection or discovery: .....
2.1.2. Name(s) and address(es) of the originator(s), as applicable:
hybridizer: .....
discoverer: .....
selector: .....
describer: .....
2.2. Nominant: the person who invented or coined the cultivar epithet; name and address: ..
2.2.1 Date of naming: .....
2.3. Introducer(s): the person(s) distributing plants, including those for trial, and/or the commercial introducer(s), with relevant dates, name(s) and address(es): .....
2.4. Registrant(s): the person(s) registering the cultivar name and providing the information, description, herbarium specimens and illustrations; name and address: .....

3.1. Particulars of any associated plant patents: .....

4.1. Particulars of any associated trademarks: .....

5.1. Particulars of any associated plant breeder's rights: .....

6.1. Information on testing in recognized trials, if applicable: .....
6.2. Awards received, with dates and the names of the awarding body: .....

7.1. Explanation of the etymology, derivation or meaning of the cultivar name: .....
7.2. If the cultivar is named for a person, have you obtained permission from that person, or their legal representative, to use and/or register the name? Yes No

8. Description
8.1. Has the name and description of this cultivar been published? Yes No
If yes, by whom, where, and when? Please supply full literature reference including the name of the author, the title of the article, the name of the journal or magazine, volume and number, page numbers and date of publication; please attach a copy or photocopy of the article (please note that it is the very first such publication that is of vital importance!):
8.2. Diagnostic description (in a language using the Latin alphabet):
The cultivar has been compared with, and may be distinguished from, related cultivars by the following characteristics, and to the best of my/our knowledge represents a

new and distinct cultivar (this information is of the utmost importance for future identification of this cultivar): .....

8.2.1. Cultivar fingerprinting has been carried out: Yes No
If yes, please attach copy of report or publication.

8.3. Detailed description of this cultivar:

8.3.1. Thyrses or flower clusters; length and width in cm: .....

8.3.2. Flower buds; colour of flower buds determined with a horticultural colour chart, preferably the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart: .....
Please state which colour chart was used and year of publication: .....

8.3.3. Florets or individual flowers; diameter in cm: .....

8.3.3.1. Florets single or double: .....
If double, distinguish between: radial double, e.g. 'Rochester'; staminode double, where reproductive parts turned petaloid in some degree, but only one corolla; hose-in-hose double, where there are 2 or more corollas, but fully functional reproductive parts; or a combination of these categories, e.g. hose-in-hose double plus staminode double: ..

8.3.3.2. Colour of florets: .....

8.3.3.3. Flower fragrance: .....

8.3.4. Growth habit (shrub-like or tree-like; vigorous, slow-growing or dwarf; unusual habit such as weeping, fastigiate prostrate; height × width in so many years): .....

8.3.4.1. Foliage; colour, autumn colour (if any): .....

8.3.4.2. Plant hardiness; known to be hardy in (specify the Zones and the Hardiness Map used):

9. Herbarium specimens sent (please send three herbarium specimens; for instruction on how to prepare herbarium specimens see part 3 of this Appendix): Yes No

10. Photographs, painting or drawing submitted: Yes No

11. Preferred method(s) of propagation of the new cultivar should be: .....

12. Additional notes: .....

Signature of applicant: .....

Date of application: .....

Preparing herbarium specimens

Herbarium specimens will be used to designate "Standards". The Standard for a cultivar is the designated herbarium specimen to which a cultivar epithet (name) is attached. It should show the characters upon which its circumscription is based.

EQUIPMENT

Newspaper

Use ordinary newspaper (not glossy magazines!) which absorbs moisture from drying plants. Soft newspaper is best (most absorbent). Fold the sheets to get "folders" about 30 × 40 cm, but not larger. [The herbarium sheets on which we later mount the dried specimens are also 30 × 40 cm.]

Cardboard [ventilators]

Use corrugated cardboard (cardboard with channels; most cartons are made of it). Cut pieces, 30 × 40 cm.

Collecting labels

Small sheets of paper, about 10 × 15 cm, for recording collecting data. Every herbarium specimen needs a collecting label to record: Name of the plant and accession number (if the plants in your collection have such numbers), date of collecting, name of person doing collecting, locality of collecting; also record any details that cannot be determined at a later date from the herbarium specimen, such as height of the plant, colour of the flowers, colour of the flower buds.

Pieces of plywood, wooden boards, or stiff cardboard, and some bricks or stones for weight

The herbarium specimens have to be dried under some pressure to assure that the leaves remain flat and spread out while drying and do not crinkle and shrivel.

COLLECTING

Write a collecting label for the plant you are collecting from.

Cut a flowering branch; that is, a branch with flowers and at least two pairs of leaves. Do not cut a branch longer than 40 cm (it has to fit on the paper and between the cardboard, and later on the mounting sheet).

Place branch between the folded newspaper and add the collection label. Place one of the 30 × 40 cm pieces of cardboard on the table [or on the floor]. Place a newspaper folder on the cardboard and place the cut branch in the folder. When placing the branch on the newspaper flatten the flowers and leaves on the paper; turn one or two leaves over (upside down), so that the underside of the leaf can be seen, and press the top part of the newspaper folder over the branch.

Put one of the cardboard pieces on top. Place a book or some other weight on top, keeping the specimen flat between the paper; or have someone help you who keeps one hand on the cardboard until you have the next folder ready to go on top – and so on. Do not forget adding the collection label to each newspaper folder.

Add pressure [weight] to the pile of drying specimens. When you have a little pile of cardboard / newspaper folder / cardboard / c / n f / c and so on, put a piece of plywood, wooden board or something similar on top and add some weight [a few bricks, stones, some heavy books] to keep pressure steady while the specimens are drying. Do not make the pile too high; the pressure on each specimen should be uniform as possible, assuring uniform drying without crinkles. Just start a new pile.

Check specimens after 24 to 36 hours. If the newspaper is damp replace it with a new, dry newspaper folder. Make sure you put the cardboard pieces again between the folders, and add the weight. Do not lose or misplace the collection labels!

When the specimens are dry you can leave them each in their newspaper folder

[with the label]; put four to six folders on top of each other with a sheet of cardboard at the bottom and another one on the top, and tie the bundle with a string [tie firmly, and crosswise, both ways, so specimens and collection labels remain in place and cannot shift and break when shipped].

Later, when you have all the specimens, the bundles are securely packed in one or more cartons for shipping. Again, the specimens have to be packed carefully but tightly so they will not shift and crumble; parcels in the mail are handled quite roughly.

Parcels should be clearly marked "FRAGILE - HANDLE WITH CARE" and "SCIENCE RESEARCH MATERIAL, NO COMMERCIAL VALUE". – After all the time and work you have to put into collecting and processing the specimens we do not want to receive "lilac tea"!

Lilac Trivia

Syringa vulgaris 'A. M. Brand'
by Freek Vrugtman

ILS members Scott and Cynthia Johnson picked up a Brand Peony Farms catalogue at a used book sale. It contains a write-up on "The Lilac Season 1940" which the Johnsons, and our editor, considered fit for reprinting in this **Journal** [***Lilacs,*** Summer 2000, pp. 90-92]. The article provides a fascinating 60-year flash-back; it also contains what appears to be the very first description of the lilac 'A. M. Brand': "The flower is an intense red as it opens, stays a rich red for at least five days, turns gradually to a rich violet-blue and then fades to a pleasant light purple." We also learn that this cultivar had been selected in or by the year 1940. The earliest date recorded by John Fiala was 1975, though John Wister had listed it in 1953. By coincidence, 1953 was the year Archie Mack Brand died. More widely known for his peony introductions, it is this still popular lilac that has perpetuated his name.

NrDNA SEQUENCES AND THEIR TAXONOMIC IMPLICATIONS IN THE SERIES PUBESCENTES

JIANHUA LI *JOHN ALEXANDER III*
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Introduction

In a plant or animal DNA molecule there are four nucleotides forming AT and CG base pair ladders supported by the glucose backbone. This is the so-called double-helix DNA structure. In evolutionary time, any of the nucleotides can mutate and change to other nucleotides. Sometimes these mutations result in functional changes, which affect metabolic activities in the organism. Many mutational changes are not sporadic, but accumulate in a step-wise fashion. Therefore, biological systematists have long tried to use this information to study relationships among organisms. As a result, the study of molecular systematics developed in the early nineties. Many exemplar studies have shown that information stored in DNA sequences provides independent evidence for testing earlier hypotheses about taxonomy and relationships of plant taxa. In the genus *Syringa*, however, there has not been a systematic study using DNA sequence data.

Sequences from many different DNA regions have been applied to phylogenetic studies, including nuclear (waxy, nrDNA ITS, adh, etc.), chloroplast (matK, rbcL, trnL intron, trnL-trnF spacer, etc.), and mitochondrial (cox, etc.). NrDNA ITS [internal transcribed spacer (ITS)] of nuclear ribosomal DNA is composed of a tantum array of repeats, each of which contains ribosomal genes (26S, 5.8S, and 18S subunits) and the internal transcribed spacers ITS-1 between 26S-5.8S, and ITS-2 between 5.8S-18S. There are several advantages for using this region: 1) it has thousands of repeats, hence it is easy to amplify by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and 2) the concerted evolution within a species homogenizes copies to such an extent that all copies have almost identical DNA sequences.

It has been generally accepted that there are four taxonomic series in the subgenus *Syringa*. The series Pinnatifoliae is unique in having pinnately compound leaves; the series Syringa is very distinct in its simple, glabrous leaves with truncate or subcordate bases; Villosae is characterized by its terminal inflorescence development; whereas the series Pubescentes differs from the above three series in its visible hairy leaves. These four series groupings are also supported by molecular evidence.

Naturally occurring plants of the Pubescentes are concentrated in central, northern, and southwestern China. *Syringa julianae, S. potaninii, S. microphylla, S. pubescens, S. patula,* and *S. meyeri* are in central to northern China, while *S. wardii,* and *S. mairei* are found only in the southwestern provinces.

In 1995 Green and Chang reported their taxonomic revision of the Pubescentes, recognizing five species, two subspecies, and one variety. In 1998, Kim and Jansen conducted a molecular study using data from restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) of chloroplast DNA, which showed significant disagreement with Green and Chang. For example, Green and Chang recognized *Syringa meyeri* as a species, and *S. microphylla* as a subspecies of *S. pubescens;* however, according to Kim and Jansen *Syringa microphylla* is allied with *S. meyeri* and is distant from *S. pubescens.* Green and Chang treated *Syringa patula* as a subspecies of *S. pubescens,*

while Kim and Jansen indicated that *S. patula* is more closely related to *S. meyeri* and *S. microphylla* than to *S. pubescens*. To examine these differences, we chose to sequence the ITS region of nuclear ribosomal DNA because it has proven to be informative in estimating phylogenetic relationships among species or closely related genera.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

In this study we focus on a group of five species partly because of their relationships and taxonomic treatment are most controversial in this series and partly because other species are not available for the study. Those unavailable species include *S. pinetorum, S, wardii, S. mairei,* and *S. potaninii.* However, we are still striving to use our contacts to get leaf material and/or germ plasm for these species. Thus, we sampled two or more individuals of each of the five species from the Arnold Arboretum and Royal Botanical Garden at Ontario (Table 1). The procedures for obtaining DNA sequence data involved DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and sequencing, and have been described in detail by the senior author elsewhere (see reference.)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have successfully obtained the whole ITS region, including ITS-1, 5.8S, and ITS-2, for all sampled accessions from within the series Pubescentes, and two species from the series Villosae for the sake of sequence comparison. The length of this region is 672 base pairs for all species except for *S. julinanae*780008, *S. meyeri*2475, and *S.emodi*2465, whose ITS regions lengths are one base pair shorter (Table 1). Among the total of 672 sites, 22 are variable, and are listed in Table 2. The sequences have been submitted to the GenBank and their accession numbers are listed in Table 1. They are also available from the authors upon request. Table 1 also shows sequence differences between the sampled accessions. Sequence divergence between species in the series Pubescentes and those of the series Villosae ranges from 1.34 to 2.09%. Within the Pubescentes, the highest sequence difference, which is 1.04%, occurs between *S. pubescens* and both *S. julinianae*780008 and *S. patula*2478. Sequences are identical in several accessions, including *S. pubescens*2471 and *S. pubescens*2472, *S. julinianae*2451 and *S. meyeri* and *S. microphylla. Syringa patula* shows the widest range of intraspecific sequence divergence, which is from 0 to 0.89%. It is also noticeable that sequence divergence within a species is as much as between traditionally different species.

When we clustered these accessions based on their sequence similarities using the Neighbor-joining method (Swofford, 2000), *Syringa pubescens* formed a branch in the phenogram (Fig.1), and others are in a separate cluster, with accessions of *S. patula* positioning in different places on the tree. This suggests that two species or subspecies could be recognized. In the phenogram, neither *S. microphylla* nor *S. patula* was in the cluster of *S. pubescens*, supporting the conclusions drawn from chloroplast DNA data by Kim and Jansen, and disagreeing with the treatment of Green and Chang that had placed both species as subspecies of *S. pubescens.* Green and Chang recognized *S. meyeri* as a distinct species; however, this treatment does not find support from our nrDNA ITS sequence. Instead, our results agree with Kim and Jansen and suggest a close affinity of *S. meyeri* with *S. microphylla, S. julianae,* and *S. patula.*

Given that sequences of *S. microphylla, S. meyeri, S. patula,* and *S. julianae* are almost identical, and none of them form a single cluster by their own accessions, it is not unreasonable to combine all four taxa. We propose to treat all four taxa as varieties of *S. microphylla* because, as pointed out by Chang and Chen, there are geographic overlaps between those species and intermediate forms are frequently seen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Chris Graham at the Royal Botanical Garden at Ontario for providing us leaf material for several species and to Dr. Michael Donoghue of Harvard University Herbaria for allowing our access to his lab facilities. This study is partially supported by a research grant from the International Lilac Society.

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FIGURE LEGEND

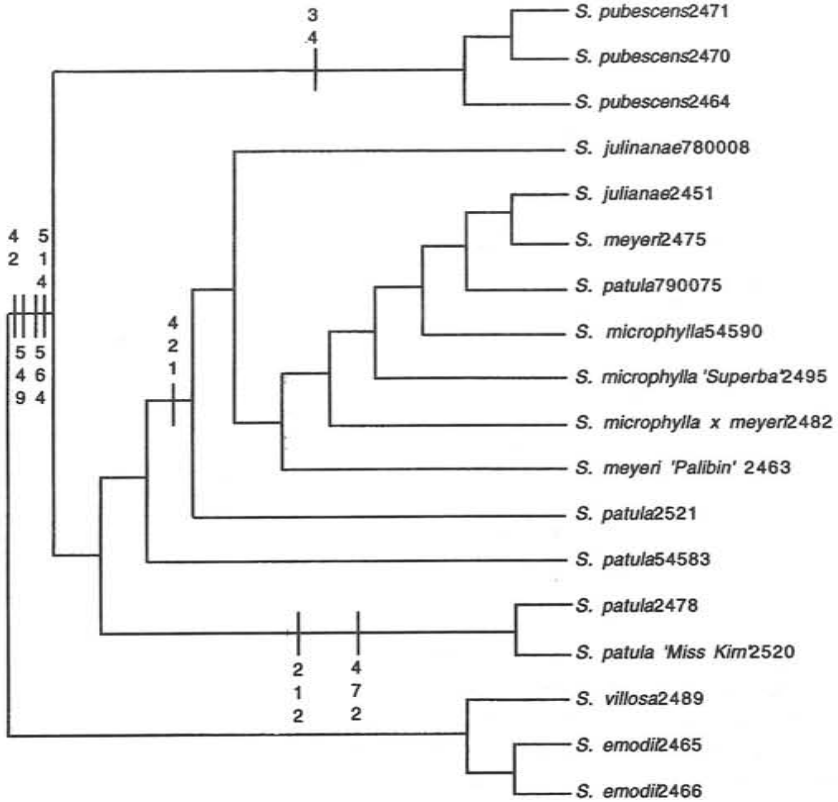
Figure 1. Neighbor-joining tree constructed using PAUP* 4.0, showing interspecific relationships of series Pubescentes. Numbers represent informative nucleotide sites supporting specific groupings.

Table 1. Sequence length (base pairs) and divergence (%) of nrDNA spacer region in Syringa. AA, Arnold Arboretum; RO, Royal Botanic Garden, Ontario.

Species	GenBank #	Length	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	14	16	17	18
1 S. pubescens2471 (AA)	AF277745	672	-																	
2 S. pubescens2470 (AA)	AF277746	672	0.00	-																
3 S. pubescens2464 (AA)	AF277747	672	0.30	0.30	-															
4 S. julianae780008 (RO)	AF277748	671	0.75	0.75	1.04	-														
5 S. julianae2451 (AA)	AF277749	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	-													
6 S. meyeri2475 (AA)	AF277750	671	0.45	0.45	0.75	0.30	0.00	-												
7 S. meyeri 'Palibin' 2463 (AA)	AF277751	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	0.00	0.00	-											
8 S. microphylla x meyeri2482 (AA)	AF277752	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	-										
9 S. microphylla 'Superba' 2495 (AA)	AF277753	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-									
10 S. microphylla54590 (RO)	AF277754	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-								
11 S. patula54583 (RO)	AF277755	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.60	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	-							
12 S. patula2478 (AA)	AF277756	672	0.74	0.74	1.04	0.75	0.74	0.75	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-						
13 S. patula 'Miss Kim' 2520 (AA)	AF277757	672	0.60	0.60	0.89	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.00	-					
14 S. patula2521 (AA)	AF277758	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.60	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.60	0.89	0.75	-				
15 S. patula790075 (RO)	AF277759	672	0.45	0.45	0.74	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.60	0.30	-			
16 S. villosa2489 (AA)	AF277760	672	1.64	1.64	1.94	2.09	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.64	1.79	1.79	-		
17 S. emodii2465 (AA)	AF277761	671	1.34	1.34	1.64	1.79	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.79	1.64	1.49	1.49	0.90	-	
18 S. emodii2466 (AA)	AF277762	672	1.34	1.34	1.64	1.79	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.49	1.79	1.64	1.49	1.49	0.89	0.00	-

Table 2. Variable sites of sequences of nrDNA in Syringa (Y = C or T).

Species/Site	3 4 4 2	6 0	8 2	1 1 2 3	1 1 4 8	1 1 9 9	1 4 7 2	8 1 2 7	2 6 1 6	3 2 8 2	4 3 5 4	4 7 6 6	4 7 4 4	4 7 6 9	5 1 4 4	5 4 6 4
S. pubescens2471	A	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	T	C	T	G	C	C	C	T	C
S. pubescens2470	A	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	T	C	T	G	C	C	C	T	C
S. pubescens2464	A	C	G	C	T	C	C	A	C	C	G	T	C	T	G	T	C	C	T	C
S. julianae780008	C	A	T	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	T	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. julianae2451	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. meyeri2475	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. meyeri 'Palibin'2463	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. microphylla x meyeri2482	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. microphylla 'Superba'2495	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. microphylla54590	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. patula54583	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	T	G	C	C	G	T	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. patula2478	C	A	C	T	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	T	G	T	C	A	A	C	C	T	C
S. patula 'Miss Kim'2520	C	A	C	Y	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	T	G	T	C	A	A	C	C	T	C
S. patula2521	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	A	C	G	C	C	T	G	C	C	T	C
S. patula790075	C	A	C	C	G	C	T	C	C	G	C	C	G	C	C	C	G	C	C	T	C
S. villosa2489	C	T	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	G	C	C	A	T	T	T	A	C	T	T	C	T
S. emodii2465	C	T	C	C	A	T	C	T	C	G	C	C	G	T	C	T	G	C	C	T	C	T
S. emodii2466	C	T	C	C	A	T	C	T	C	G	C	C	G	T	C	T	G	C	C	T	C	T



Pekin Lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*)

Reeser C. Manley
Director, Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden
University of Maine, Orono

Early on a frigid February morning, a group of shivering students follows me through knee-deep snow to the back corner of Littlefield Garden. Our heavy feet plow a circuitous path as we stop at every shrub, every tree. I feel obliged to say something about everything. But I have a destination this morning: the Garden's Pekin lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*), a small tree with amber-brown bark that I know will be glowing in the early morning sunlight. Most of my students have never experienced this sight and my step quickens in anticipation of their reactions.

We turn a corner into the Winter Garden, a small space devoted to plants with winter interest, and all eyes are drawn to the tree lilac and its exfoliating bark. Filtered sunlight warms the honey-colored trunk and branches that still bear a dusting of fresh snow. Thin papery edges of the peeling outer bark emit an amber glow. The entire tree reflects warmth. I hear exclamations of wonder, "Oh wow!" and "This is way cool!". A few steps ahead of the group, I quickly cover the tree's label with my hand before asking the students as they gather around the tree if they can identify it. They talk among themselves about the bark; some cannot resist the desire to touch it. "*Betula alleghaniensis*" is offered as a guess prompted by the peeling bark. I point out that the bark's color is different, not the yellow-brown of the native birch but a rich amber-brown, more like the bark of paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*). Someone else suggests *Prunus* - the inner bark *is* heavily lenticeled like that of *Prunus maackii* (Amur chokecherry). A good guess, but no, all *Prunus* have alternate leaves and this tree has opposite bud arrangement. Then I point to a single small cluster of dried scimitar-shaped seed capsules at the end of a high branch. Someone shouts "Lilac!" and the game is over.

I have played this game with past visitors to the Garden. Very few recognize *Syringa pekinensis*, although in summer the foliage helps the experienced viewer recognize the tree as a lilac. Those who know *S. reticulata*, Japanese tree lilac, guess incorrectly that this tree is a form of that species. The two species are very similar in size (20-25 feet high), foliage and flower, although Pekin lilac is slightly earlier in producing its panicles of creamy white flowers. (The flowers are decidedly not lilac-like in fragrance, more privet-like and not noticeable unless you are very close.)

Native to the mountains of northern China, the Pekin lilac was introduced to Western horticulture in 1881 by E. Bretschneider, who sent seeds to England from Peking. Seeds were also sent to the Arnold Arboretum in 1882 and the species first flowered at the Arnold in 1889. Introduced commercially in 1909, Pekin lilac is still considered uncommon in horticultural trade.

We stand in the cold, my students and I, discussing this tree. I lecture while stomping the snow beneath my numb feet and they try to take notes with frozen fingers. I talk about variability in habit, pointing out that this tree has somewhat drooping branches, mentioning that there is a cultivar named 'Pendula', although this tree was not purchased as such. But not all plants have the drooping habit. *S. pekinensis* is typically a small, often multi-stemmed tree with ascending branches and a rounded crown. I talk about variability in bark character, that the bark of

some Pekin lilacs does not exfoliate and looks more like the horizontally lenticeled bark of *S. reticulata*. I suggest that Pekin lilac has decent fall foliage color, a subtle yellow-brown. I even try to make a case for the ornamental value of the seed capsules in October when they are a rich gold-brown, clustered above the yellow-brown foliage. Still, it is the richness and warm glow of the bark of this tree that captures their attention. Appreciation for the rest will come later, in other seasons.

Time runs out, the students scatter to other classes. I sit down on a bench in the Winter Garden to admire the tree that has been the focus of this class, wondering why such a beautiful tree is so seldom seen, so little known. Unlike the popular common lilac (*S. vulgaris*), *S. pekinensis* is essentially trouble-free, not bothered by mildew or insects. In size and ornamental character, it meets the needs of the urban and residential landscape. And Pekin lilacs are tough trees. I remember seeing several newly installed plants of *S. pekinensis* 'Morton' (selected for its upright habit and exfoliating bark) in a parking lot at the Morton Arboretum during a recent visit. Planted in minimal soil volume and surrounded by asphalt, they were coping well with the hot dry summer. I suspect growers may find Pekin lilac difficult to propagate. One of my students tried propagating the Littlefield Garden tree from seed, stratifying the seed for 90 days at 35 °F as recommended, but without success. Another student is currently trying to root cuttings taken in late spring and treated with hormone. According to the experts, this should work.

Reluctantly, I too must leave the Garden. My exit, however, is not as swift or direct as that of my students. I have time to linger in the Winter Garden, pausing more than once for a last look at the lilac.

Audit Committee Report

I have examined the books of the International Lilac Society as maintained by James Hastings and find them in good order. He maintains a clear paper trail on all operating fund accounts and follows standard reporting and accounting procedures.

I also checked the investment accounts including those of the Key Bank and Edward Jones Company. All accounts and totals as of April 28th were verified and accounted as correct.

For the Audit Committee
Owen M. Rogers
June 26, 2000

New England Regional Activities

by Peter Ely

Region 1 Second Annual Field Day

Members from each New England state, except Rhode Island, gathered on Saturday May 20, 2000 at the Newbury Perennial Gardens and Nursery in Massachusetts. Evelyn King and Roger Coggeshall held a propagation seminar on lilacs. In the late afternoon, they led a tour of their own nursery, pointing out the many steps it takes to produce saleable lilacs true to name.

Whereas at the time ILS was founded in the early 1970's, the Lemoine cultivars dominated commercially. Nowadays the seedlings of Skinner, Fenicchia, Fiala among others are in demand.

Richard and Patricia Simkins led a tour of the gardens in the early afternoon. A newly planted lilac walk rimmed a spacious lawn. The plants were from four to six feet tall, but were struggling owing to the clay soil. Many were being scheduled for replanting.

On Sunday May 21, 2000, ILS members met at the Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion and grounds during their Lilac Open House Festival in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. We had the opportunity to tour the lilacs; attend lilac workshops led by Dr. Owen Rogers, Roger Coggeshall and Evelyn King; purchase lilacs; view lilac paintings and crafts and enjoy friends.

At both events, in MA and NH, ILS had a table to provide lilac information and membership services to the general public.

ILS New England will again provide a lilac seminar at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show (Hartford) on Saturday February 24, 2001 at 5pm. Also at the Rhode Island Flower and Garden Show (Providence) February 15-18, 2001.

New England Members are encouraged to contact its Regional Vice President Peter Ely at 1-203-888-2628, or e-mail at SEly634929@aol.com regarding lilac information, etc.

MORE CONVENTION PICTURES

(left) The jeroboam with Frank Moro and David Gressley

(above) President Robert Hoepfl addresses the convention

(above) The Awards Committee. Picture taken by Irene Stark.

(right) Roger Cogshell, Reva Ballreich and Max Peterson at Frank Moro's house.

(left) Explanation of lunch menu in Terremonne

All photos submitted by Bill Hormon

Box 6
Belmont, MB. ROK OCO, Canada
May 10, 2000

Dear Dr. Rogers,

I am writing at the suggestion of Dave Gressley. As a new member of the International Lilac Society, I mentioned to him that I am growing a variety of woody plants from seed to test for hardiness and garden value in the often harsh climate of the Canadian Prairies. I have been able to obtain seed of only a few species of lilacs from the seed exchanges I take part in. I would like to place a notice in the ***Journal*** requesting members to send seed of any of the following species: *Syringa emodi, julianae, laciniata, pinnatifolia, pubescens, reflexa, sweginzowii, tomentella, wolfii.*

I have only a few lilac species and most of these are not seed-bearing yet, so it would be difficult for me to reciprocate with lilac seed. However, I have a large collection of plants and would like to send something back to those who send me seed. I request that anyone who sends any of the above seed mentions any seed they are seeking.

Sincerely,
Patrick Healey

from The Detroit News, *June 15, 2000*
submitted by Bill Horman

Lilac-lined Streets Featured in Brochure

Woman reveals history behind National Mine's abundant lilac bushes.

by Renee Prusi

MARQUETTE – Annie Trudell was driving through National Mine one sunny spring day when she suddenly became keenly aware of something.

For a small community, National Mine certainly had a large number of lilac bushes. In full bloom, the bushes filled the air with that special fragrance and the gorgeous colors contrasted beautifully with the newly emerging green of the trees.

"Really, anyone driving around the winding roadways of National Mine would become aware of the fragrance in the air and could gaze at abundant splashes of lavender and white amid the rolling hills," Trudell said.

She wondered why National Mine seemed especially blessed by an abundance of lilac bushes, so she delved in to the community's history and discovered an interesting part of the past.

Now she has turned that discovery into a brochure that will tell local residents and visitors alike about the history of lilacs in National Mine.

"While we do know how all these lilacs came to grow so profusely throughout the community, we don't know which of the early settlers in the 1800s introduced the first lilacs to the town." Trudell said.

Her research told her that this country's founding fathers were among those

who began America's fascination with the flowering plant, which is not native to the United States. Trudell found that Thomas Jefferson and George Washington both wrote about planting lilacs on their property in the late 18th century. But she still wondered why so many of the bushes were found around Tilden Township, of which National Mine is a part.

Actually, National Mine was called Winthrop when it was first settled in the mid-1800s, with many of the new arrivals coming from parts of Great Britain, Trudell found.

"The earliest noted lilacs in National Mine were the ones planted around the original red schoolhouse and a large arbor of a different color established at the Methodist church," she said. "Those sites are now a basketball court and a private yard.

"When the old red schoolhouse was torn down and the congregation of the church moved, all families in the area were urged to dig up some lilac shoots and replant them in their yards. So they are a sign of some of the homesteads of the original founding families of Winthrop. This area is perfect for growing lilacs."

Lilacs grow best in northern temperate climates because they need cold weather to bloom, Trudell said.

"They will grow almost anywhere. ...They are an almost everlasting landmark as they live for centuries," Trudell said. "Even now, though the ancestral homes of some of the early northern pioneers are long gone, the lilacs remain to remind you of the families' existence."

Trudell has put together a lilac brochure with a map that shows the roadways that lead into some of the beautiful displays in the National Mine area. The brochure is available at the Country Market store in National Mine.

But Trudell has a reminder for anyone who wants to come to take a look at the beauty of the lilacs this spring.

"Please keep in mind that the entire area is all privately owned property, so take a camera and be prepared to only take home pictures of this lovely legacy of the lilacs," she said.

Renee Prusi writes for The Mining Journal in Marquette. This report was distributed by The Associated Press.

From the Chicago Tribune, April 2, 2000

Not Your Grandma's Lilacs

by Dennis Rodkin

If a sweet fragrance in the spring air makes you think of Grandma, you know the nostalgic power of lilacs. Long a mainstay of Midwestern gardens because they bloom and smell gorgeous with little care, lilacs are sometimes dismissed as old hat. But many of the varieties available in nurseries now aren't your grandma's lilacs.

We've gotten away from what I call 'farm lilacs' the common purple that got 15 feet high, lost all the foliage at the bottom and looked bad," says Tim Reckamp, co-owner of Harvard Nursery in Harvard. "Now there are all these medium and small varieties in great colors."

Lilacs are our Plant of the Month for April. Some varieties begin blooming toward the end of the month and most hit full stride in May.

Given a spot with ample sunlight and a non-acid soil that has lots of organic matter and good drainage, lilacs can perform beautifully. They can be susceptible, though, to powdery mildew and other diseases and to assorted insects. A few ways to reduce the risks are: Plant newer hybrids that were bred to resist pests and diseases (their tags will say so): always rake away any fallen leaves that have mildew or other diseases on them; and avoid overwatering.

Lilacs' aesthetic weakness is the foliage. It's as ordinary as can be. And not all lilacs have that retro scent. Hybridizing has created many modern varieties that are low on scent or completely scentless, a terrible loss.

Lilacs should not be pruned in the fall or winter; Reckamp notes. Prune them in early summer, immediately after they finish blooming, and the new wood that develops afterward will be what they bloom on the following spring.

Lilacs

by Ted Collins AKA Doc Lilac

Lilacs are memories in bloom. Most of us remember lilacs in some way. Perhaps it was the way Mother cut purple and white blossoms to mix with tulips to impress the teacher at school. Or the way their sweet perfume filled the room as no other blossoms in May ever could. One of my own recollections as a young arborist was their unique twisted trunks and suckers (root shoots) stabilizing steep banks around our homestead.

Lilacs are the queens of flowering shrubs. Their enormous blossoms in seven color classifications, and many sub-colors make them second to none. There is now even a yellow lilac called 'Primrose' and 'Sensation' has a dark purple flower with white edges – the only bi-color. In the seven years I have sold lilacs at Highland Parks' Lilac Festival, these two have become the best sellers despite their less than great fragrance and slightly different growth habit ('Primrose' is compact and 'Sensation' more tree like). For stunning uniqueness in a bouquet, I mix them with the more fragrant varieties. Most other lilacs are very fragrant, but there are some obvious differences. The late bloomers (Prestonians, for example, named for Isabella Preston, a lilac breeder) are not nearly as fragrant, and somewhat dissimilar. An old stand-by, 'James Macfarlane' is favored by landscapers for its ruggedness and late, feathery-pink flowers is becoming less favorable as newer, late bloomers are introduced, i.e. 'Miss Canada', a hot reddish-pink and 'Minuet' a vibrant violet. Later blooming lilacs are great for extending the season, different growth habits and different flower heads, but if memories and fragrance influence your choices, you will be happiest with the common lilac. Old-fashioned fragrance and purple or white blossoms are its attributes. From this lilac sprang the improved, all-time favorite 'French Hybrids'. The startling crosses of Victor Lemoine in Nancy, France from about 1876 gave the name French Hybrids to hybridized, improved Common Lilacs.

A sad fact is that many think of lilacs only as a large shrub that is not attractive after it blooms. This is far from true. The 'Rochester' lilac boasts shiny, leathery leaves, a not too tall habit, and is more a small tree. It does not throw up many shoots or 'suckers' and lends itself to easy, creative pruning. If limited to three or

four choices from the 500 varieties at Highland Park, 'Rochester' would be one of mine.

There are lilacs for all tastes and functions: different shapes, sizes, bloom times and fragrances; small leaves, large leaves, variegated leaves and leaves with fall color; loose, open growth or compact, dense forms for small places, rock gardens or pots on patios; hedge lilacs, weeping lilacs, Japanese tree lilacs and those grafted or trained as topiaries or pom-poms. There are even those that bloom in May and again in September. Recently, varieties have been developed in California that will bloom in the Deep South. Space does not allow for suggested varieties for all situations, but Highland Park tours or nursery visits can be helpful.

A typical garden center usually offers a handful of old stand-bys. At our nursery on Turk Hill Road across from Casa Larga Vinyard, we have over 250 varieties planted for viewing and for sale. We force lilacs in our greenhouse (with a purple front and a lavender interior) for early sampling and we sell fresh-cut flowers for bouquets in season. We hope to be able to force them into bloom in December to entertain our Christmas tree patrons. You might conclude that we are obsessed with lilacs.

We try to include them in all our landscaping projects, for Rochester is truly the 'Flower City' and arguably the lilac capital of the world. If we're not now, we once were. My fondest personal fantasy is to fly over Rochester someday and see a patchwork or counterpane of lilac hues covering the landscape.

Here are a few brief tips to help you with selection and planting care:

- Plant more than one color or shape for variety and contrast.
- Purchase lilacs on their 'own roots' – not grafted. Choose those with more than one stem if possible. Do not pick a straggly plant because it has a flower or two. Ask about guarantees.
- Potted plants are preferable. Bare-root is okay if you have a green thumb.
- Plant in sun or semi-shade in good soil. Slightly deep is acceptable. If soil is heavy or clay-like, dispose of it or plant high or on a berm.
- Add a handful of lime and high phosphorous fertilizer (5-10-5 or 0-45-0). Mix well with soil. Water and then mulch.
- If plants are small, highlight them with a stake or small fence to discourage mowers, weed killers or dogs, etc.
- When they bloom (and they will, sooner or later), prune only at bloom time or just after.
- For more detailed planting and care information, ask for our 'green sheet' at point of sale or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Doc Lilac
2366 Turk Hill Road
Victor, NY 14564

The serious lilac fancier should consider joining the International Lilac Society. It publishes quarterly journals, hosts conventions annually and holds auctions featuring rare and interesting lilacs. Dues are $20 annually. Write:

David Gressley
c/o Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, OH 44094

Tips For Beginners

Fall Fertilization

Question: A newspaper article in our home town stated that fall fertilization was good for lilacs (and other deciduous shrubs) and actually improved their ability to stand the winter. Is this true?

Answer: Yes, it is. I've been fertilizing my lilacs in the fall for years because it is good for the lilacs, and because that's when I have time to do it. The reason that fall fertilization for lilacs is not widely practiced is because people thought that new growth would be stimulated so late in the year that the shoots would be winter-killed.

However, remember that an occasional shoot, or even a bloom, late in the year is normal on any large lilac bush. Every time such a shoot appears, there is always a question as to whether it was caused by late fertilization. We tell them that the shoot would have appeared fertilizer or not, and that fall shoot appearance is not the result of fertilization. You might want to go back to **Lilacs**, Vol. 27 No. 3, 1998 pg. 91 for more tips on lilac fertilization.

International Lilac Society

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