

Lilacs

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of the International Lilac Society

*IN
THIS
ISSUE:* **Convention
Member Contributions**

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

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

Cover Story

Front Cover

Syringa vulgaris 'Pol Robson'. The picture credit goes to Colin Chapman. The cultivar is listed in his article on the plants in the NCCPG National Collection of *Syringa* at Norman's Farm. 'Pol Robson' is listed as a single, lavender-blue to lilac in Father Fiala's book.

Back Cover

Connie and Charles Sherer at the opening of their lilac collection to the public on April 28, 1996. (See article in this issue.)

Editor's Notes

Spring is on the way regardless of what you see out the window. It also means that it's time to get going on the annual convention. I assume that everyone has already registered for what looks like a spectacular Lilac Society Convention. If there are one or two people who still need to register, we have repeated the registration form as an insert in this issue. However, please notice we have added a deadline date for registration of May 25th.

On that date unreserved hotel rooms will revert to hotel control and you will be on your own to find a room at the height of the festival season.



I messed up one listing from a commercial firm in the membership issue, so I'll ask you to correct my mistake. Between "Dupree" and "Dwyer", on page 10, in the Winter issue of **Lilacs** please insert the following line:

DUTCH FLOWER. Cas Trap, 42 Ganung Drive, Ossing, NY 10562.

The omission fault is mine, so I thank you for correcting my mistake. Each member of the ILS is important and we want everyone to be included in the family.



Editor's Notes . . .continued

Freek Vrugtman passed on this bit of lilac trivia from the Registrar's desk: "The longest established name of a lilac cultivar appears to be 'Madame la Comtesse Oswald de Kerchove de Denterghem; the shortest one, 'Rå'."



Also, some convention site trivia: Mackinac Island Carriage Tours is the oldest livery in continuous operation in the United States. There are 2,300 privately owned bicycles on the island in summer, plus 1,000 rental bikes; 700 tons of hay are used on the island each year; 550 horses are on the island during the summer; most of the horses are wintered off the island; 270 horses work the Carriage Tours each summer; 10 street sweepers are employed by the city; this year's Mackinac Island Lilac Festival from June 6th to the 15th will be the 48th annual festival.

Anyone interested in background information should consider "Mackinac Island", a book by Thomas Piljac and Pamela Lach, Chicago Review Press (1988, 1989). About \$15.00, softcover, 299 pages covering history, natural history, development into a world famous resort and what it's like to live on the island year around, plus descriptions of interesting sites in the surrounding areas.



Did you remember to vote in the election of members to the Board of Directors? This is an important privilege to membership and the Board always hopes for full member participation. If you haven't yet voted please go back to the winter issue for the election ballot and send it on to Pauline Fiala.



Remember it is only 73 days until the convention. Do plan to attend. The costs sound big but when you consider that the "package" includes the hotel room as well as all of the other things listed on the Registration form, the cost can be seen as much more reasonable e.g. all meals (except Sunday lunch) are included as well as ferry passes, taxes, gratuities, etc, etc. The more I list the more I realize what a good deal we are getting. See you there.

Tentative Program*

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY CONVENTION JUNE 13-15, 1997 MACKINAC ISLAND

Friday, June 13

- 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. Board of Director's Meeting
- 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. Registration - Island House
- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open

Saturday, June 14

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Full Buffet Breakfast
- 8:15 - 8:45 a.m. Welcoming Address
- 8:50 - 9:30 a.m. Speaker
- 9:30 - 10:10 a.m. Speaker
- 10:15 - 11:30 a.m. ILS Annual Meeting
- 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Lilac Auction
- 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Free Time
- 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. President's Dinner
- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Speaker on Island History
- 9:15 - 10:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open

Sunday, June 15

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Full Buffet Breakfast
- 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. Board of Director's Meeting
- 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Lilac Talk
- 10:00 - 12:00 a.m. Carriage Tour of Island
- 12:15 - 1:30 p.m. Tour of Governor's Summer Home & Grand Hotel
- 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Lunch on your own and Free Time
- 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Lilac Parade
- 6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Social Hour
- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Awards Banquet
- 8:30 - 9:00 p.m. Awards - Pauline Fiala
- 9:00 - 10:30 p.m. Hospitality Suite Open

Monday, June 16

- 6:30 - 8:00 a.m. Full Buffet Breakfast

Checkout by 11:00 a.m.

or stay extra night with prior arrangement with the Hotel.

*This is truly a "tentative" program and will change several times before June 13th. There will be an up-to-date program in your package when you arrive on Mackinac Island.

Travel Directions to Mackinac Island

Mackinac Island is easily accessible by either car or plane. If you wish to fly, Pellston, Michigan is the closest major airport. Contact either United (1-800-241-6522) which flies from Chicago, Illinois, or Northwest (1-800-225-2525) which flies from Detroit, Michigan. From the Pellston's Airport (1-616-539-8441) there is limo service to the Mackinaw City Ferry Docks (ca. 25 miles) with Wolverine Stages or you can arrange a flight to Mackinac Island's airport.

By car, I-75 is an excellent, direct route from the south or north with well-marked signs to the Ferry Docks in Mackinaw City and St. Ignace along the road. There is ample parking at the ferry docks.

By private boat, dockage is available on the Island. Call 906-847-3561.

A free guide to Michigan travel, including a map, can be requested from the Michigan Travel Bureau (1-800-5432-YES). The Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce is happy to assist in making your travel to, and stay at, their island most enjoyable. Feel free to call them at 1-800-4-LILACS.

Miles to Island

Chicago	390	Toronto	470
Cleveland	430	St. Louis	640
Detroit	280	Minneapolis	500
Green Bay	260	Lansing	225
Indianapolis	460	Sault Ste. Marie Michigan or Canada	55



Lilac Parade, Mackinac Island – 1996.

Thoughts On Choosing The Mackinac Island Site

by Bill Horman

The thought occurred to me that fellow members might like to know something about the ways in which the sites are chosen for annual meetings. Since I have only been involved in this for our next meeting, my knowledge of this process is quite limited. Yet, I would like to share the interesting story of how Mackinac Island was chosen for the site of our June 13th through 15th, 1997 Annual Meeting.

Our I.L.S. Convention Chairman, Bill Utley, has the responsibility of preparing a list of possible future meeting sites. Certain criteria are considered, such as finding places that offer substantial quantities of healthy lilacs, suitable support facilities such as sleeping/dining/meeting places, and a welcoming host. Also, consideration is given to geography in an effort to cover as much of the globe as possible through the years without frequent duplication and with the desire for uncomplicated travel and reasonable costs. No doubt it is difficult to please every member with a selected site, yet many members are present at each yearly gathering, and consensus from them shows their overall satisfaction with the uniqueness of each location and benefits of attending each meeting. Indeed, our Society is grateful to Bill Utley for his years of thoughtful convention planning! It is up to the Society's Board of Directors to approve or disapprove this chairman's recommendations.

Bill Utley had long ago heard of lilacs growing on Mackinac Island. In fact, their existence was known by many Society members, but no one in I.L.S. seemed to know much about those lilacs, so Bill decided to embark on a serious investigation. He asked me to arrange a meeting with a spokesperson for the island. On a late July day in 1993 (as the Japanese tree lilacs bloomed there) Ms. Jennifer DaFoe, then Executive Director of the Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce, met with Bill Utley, Howard Whitescarver (a fellow member and professional convention planner), and me over lunch on the island. We were warmly received and we not only sensed a genuine interest in our Society, but also learned of the extensive and inviting meeting facilities there.

Now for the amazing part! It was at this meeting that our Society first learned of The Mackinac Island Lilac Festival! How could this major annual tradition of huge proportions have eluded our Society's detection? After all, this lilac celebration has been getting bigger and better for nearly fifty years, and even draws visitors from many foreign lands! While trying to figure that one out, here is the second surprise: until this meeting, neither the Islanders nor their Chamber of Commerce had heard of our Society!

As you might rightly guess, both groups were instantly delighted with their new findings about one another, and lines for communication clicked on in a big way as letters and phone conversations not only satisfied

curiosities, but also began to lay a solid framework for a fast budding friendship between two world class lilac-loving groups.

That it has taken so many years for our Society to consider having an annual meeting on the island is puzzling. Perhaps part of the explanation lies in the fact that many of Mackinac Island's oldest lilacs are not labeled. While it is true that labeled plants appeal readily to the masses, and when accurately done delight the scientific community, are specimens of antiquity to be less appreciated because they lack identification labels? Their vigor and stature is no less than a wonder of nature! While today's visitor to Mackinac Island will enjoy many fine labeled lilacs, it is the privilege of each visitor to admire and respect the many very old monarchs, some towering to thirty feet, which have been steadfast and faithful to their duty of providing abundant beauty with unexplainable resilience. To better understand why there are no labels on the oldest island lilacs, one needs to realize that during the hundreds of years these oldest lilacs were growing, they were surrounded by continuing transitions, often with much turmoil, involving Indians, frontiersmen, and soldiers and settlers from England and France. Likely, the plants were brought from Europe by settlers anxious to establish cherished bits of their old homeland in their new domain. History bears out that the years between the late 1600s and the late 1800s were not the most conducive to labeling lilacs or handing down the genealogy of the oldest lilacs that survive today. Our Society is indeed blessed that the people of Mackinac Island have an inherited tradition of loving and caring for lilacs, especially the precious senior plants, and that we, too, as very devoted lilac enthusiasts do embrace, label or not. Hopefully, visiting I.L.S. members will kindly provide the Islanders with plant identification assistance whenever possible for the common good.

I am happy to note several lilac projects well underway on the Island today. These were all initiated by the Islanders and nicely demonstrate their determination to serve the best interests of both lilacs and people. These include:

- (1) fervent efforts to identify and label as many of the Island's lilacs as possible,
- (2) establishment of a lilac record keeping system, including mapping lilac locations and,
- (3) a fresh commitment, led by the Chamber of Commerce, to increase and diversify the Island's lilac collection, and include "an Interpretive Lilac Trail".

As the residents and the Michigan Department of State Parks pursue these endeavors, they will welcome any volunteered assistance.

After the July 1993 meeting, Ms. DaFoe, Messrs. Utley, Whitescarver

and I used the following months to convey to our Society's Board of Directors the positive news of the Islanders' keen interest in I.L.S. and their well established abilities to provide an ideal site and accommodations for a future annual meeting.

By early 1994, the position of Executive Director of the Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce had been transferred to Mr. Len Trankina. When I sought further information about the Islanders' celebration of lilacs, he promptly and with zest sent me several press release copies and many exciting articles describing the jubilant annual Lilac Festival, which includes a terrific colorful parade. I mailed copies of this information to several of the most active Society members, whose responses were very favorable. While word about the Island's many virtues was spreading further through our membership, Len kindly convinced their Chamber of Commerce to become active immediately through membership in the I.L.S.

On June 17th, 1995 Society members Walter and Katie Eickhorst met me at Mackinaw City, where we boarded a comfortable ferry which delivered us for a pleasant afternoon of Island sight-seeing. The lilacs were in full bloom both under the sunny skies and inside many charming shops adorning all sorts of attractive merchandise. As we finished admiring streetside, dooryard and parkland lilac plantings, all radiating exquisite *Syringa* shades and fragrance, Walter commented, "I think I.L.S. ought to have a meeting here!" Later he wrote of his experiences that day (**Lilacs**, Fall 1995) referring to the "grandeur" of Mackinac's Lilacs and the "opportunity of a lifetime" they afforded all visitors.

Lilac lines of communication between Mackinac Island and the rest of the world opened even further when Tim and Patty Leeper joined our Society and quickly volunteered to serve as liaisons. They are very enthusiastic residents who are also successful business owners and very active in community events. Furthermore, their solid knowledge of horticulture is proving to be invaluable in strengthening the growing friendships between the Islanders and Society members. Through Len Trankina and Tim and Patty Leeper, our Society's representatives are becoming better acquainted with all of the leaders on Mackinac Island. Everyone whom I have met or spoken with there has been very cordial, life-loving, and sincere . . . just like all our Society's members. I suspect we are related!

At the 1996 Annual Meeting at scenic Poughkeepsie, New York, the I.L.S. Board of Directors received and unanimously accepted with great pleasure the invitation of the Mackinac Island Chamber of Commerce to host the 1997 Annual Meeting of the International Society.

Silent Auction

The Society has acquired a copy of "Lilacs", The Genus *Syringa* by Father Fiala. It was turned back to Timer Press by a bookstore and the Society snatched it up as soon as we were made aware of its existence. It has a smudge on the dust cover, but otherwise it is in perfect condition. It will be sold through a silent auction at the annual convention this June on Mackinac Island. The Society will accept sealed bids from any member whether they are at the convention or not. The bids will be opened and the "winner" announced at the Awards Banquet on Sunday, June 16th.

For those planning to attend the convention, there will be a box in the Hospitality Room. Those not able to get to the convention can send sealed bids to Owen Rogers, Plant Biology Department, University of New Hampshire, Durham NH 03824. Those bids must arrive in Durham before June 10th to be included in the "box". A minimum bid of \$60.00 has been set to allow the Society to recover its cost.

Next Issue Deadline

With the convention not scheduled until mid June, we will delay the publication of the summer issue of "Lilacs" to allow inclusion of the convention reports. Therefore, the deadline date for material to the editor will be June 27th. We will not change the fall issue deadline, so it will remain September 8th. When you are preparing material to send to your editor, who has no backlog of materials, you might want to prepare something for the fall issue as well.

One of our members has asked if we would publish a list of the Lilac Festivals across the country – witness that we found out about the Mackinac Lilac Festival only after we started planning for this year's convention. To do this, your editor will need help. Would you please send me a list of the festivals of which you have knowledge. Don't worry if you are unsure of the exact name or the commonly used dates. We can check on details, but need your list as a starting place.

LOVELY LILACS

I found that lilacs placed in a food dehydrator for about four hours dry to a firm, grapelike cluster several shades darker than the fresh flowers. The flower clusters shrink by about one-third but offer a nice purple-blue option for wreaths and arrangements. They also retain some of their fragrance. Place whole branch-tip clusters or individual plumes with 2"-to 3"-long stems on the dehydrator trays. Turn them periodically, and rotate the trays if you're drying a lot of flower clusters.

—Robin Lenhard
Buffalo, New York

As seen in FLORAL & NATURE CRAFTS magazine, March 1997 issue.

News From Eastern Canada!!

by Frank Moro

The winter has been quite mild in eastern Canada this year and snow started to fall a little later than usual but many things have been happening concerning my nursery that hopefully will help lilac enthusiasts in their future searches for their beloved plants.

Select Plus International Nursery has become a member of the Internet service and can be reached at lilacs@axess.com. We are hoping that soon in the future we will have our catalogue on the net. We also invite anyone to e-mail us and have any questions answered on any kind of lilac subject or horticultural inquiries. The big event over the winter of 1996-97 was taking on the task of putting a micropropagation lab together. Some first material will be on the market this spring and plans are to get working on the more difficult to find and harder to propagate varieties in spring 1997.

The goal of the lab is to be able to grow smaller quantities of lilacs in order to make them more readily available to everyone. Requests in the last 6 months have been coming in from around the world with orders being placed as far as 3 years in advance.

So for all of you who have been searching for that special lilac that nobody has, hold on to your hats and in the near future we will hopefully fulfill your dream.

Distribution Lilacs

The time has once again come to select two lilacs that should be of particular interest to everyone.

***Syringa hyacinthiflora* 'Royal Purple':** Royal Purple is in the D-7 category and was introduced in 1966 by Skinner. It is amongst the few in this family to have a double flower. Because it is a hyacinthiflora it has that habit of flowering 7 to 10 days prior to vulgaris and also flowers more consistently every year. It is a double purple and a good flowerer. It is available in a 2 gallon size of 18-24" and the price is \$15.00 US and \$18 Canadian. This includes all charges of shipping and phytosanitary certificates where needed.

***Syringa josiflexa* 'Nellie Bean':** An introduction from the University of New Hampshire, it was Yaeger who brought us this late flowering S-7 preston in 1961. It is an excellent deep purple and is described in Father Fiala's book as "very fine". Because so many of the late lilacs are in the pink category this is definitely one to have in a collection. It also will extend your flowering season 'till mid-June in the eastern part of the continent. Usually late lilacs have a spicy fragrance to them and 'Nellie Bean' is no exception.

The price for a 2 gallon plant 18-24" will be \$13.00 US and \$16.00 Canadian. This includes, as always, all shipping and handling costs.



European Newsletter

by Colin Chapman

In the Winter '95 edition of "Lilacs" (Vol. 24 No. 1) I made an appeal to anyone who knew the whereabouts of *Syringa ×chinensis* 'Duplex'

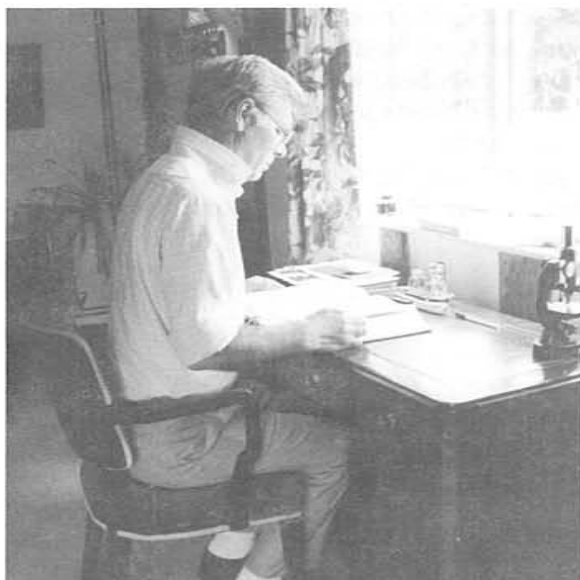
(Lemoine 1897).

Last winter, in a parcel of propagating material requested from the Central Botanical Garden, Kiev, The Ukraine, Ole Heide found a plant specimen included for me.

Vassily Gorb had included 'Duplex'. In

January, Ole sent me a fine grafted plant which, because of the intensely cold weather we were experiencing, I kept in the house. This forced the plant into flower and I can verify that it is indeed the double form of *×chinensis*. Ole has sent plant material to Max Peterson so the plant is already in North America. I can tell you that it is an exquisite addition to the lilacs available to us and our thanks go out once more to Vassily Gorb for his generosity and cooperation. As ever, there is more, because I have also received via the same Gorb – Heide corridor what must be one of Mikolaj Karpow-Lipsky's greatest lilacs, *Syringa vulgaris* 'Jutrzenka Pormorza'. It is a double of exquisite form and fragrance but, being forced, the colour is too pale for comment at the moment, but I know I will write at length about this one quite soon. Vassily, when the Norman's Farm lilacs are mature I will respond in kind and bring some rare plant material to you personally.

Recently, we had a visit from English I.L.S. member Chris Lane. Chris teaches at one of our leading horticultural colleges and is a former President of the European Section of the International Propagators' Society, thus he is a very important and influential person in his field. Though he is one of our leading authorities on the genus *Hamamelis*, Chris wants to create at his home a lilac collection of about 200 taxa which would give him the fourth largest collection in the country after us, Kew and Brighton. We spent a delightful day collecting the limited number of pieces of scionwood



The European Newsdesk

my immature plants would yield and a long leisurely lunch discussing the plant world and putting all problems right. Chris gave me three distinct and numbered forms of *S. oblata* var *donaldii* and though I was very impressed by their rarity and delighted to have them, it was something else which took my breath away. I have never seen container grown plants presented so beautifully and pruned so meticulously. The level of his craftsmanship was superb and I will try to twist his arm to get him to tell us how he does it.

Apart from Ole, Chris and Dr. Gorb, the challenge in my last article seems to have been ignored. Does anyone out there read this stuff?

*Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
Stowmarket
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England*

NCCPG National Collection of Syringa

by Colin Chapman

I regard it as axiomatic that the elements which constitute a major lilac collection should be published. The bulk of the Norman's Farm collection has been assembled in just five years and this could not have been done but for the information giving the constituents of the great collections which are recorded in the collective works of the International Lilac Society. Because I have "stood on the shoulders of giants" I submit the inventory of our collection so that it, too, might serve the interests of others. The people I must thank are too numerous to mention in total but, principally, the collection exists because of the generous donations of plant material by Charles Holetich, Bill Utley, Bob Hoepfl, Dr. Karen Murray, Tony Kirkham, Martin Staniforth, Notcutts, the late L. Maurice Mason VMH, Roy Lancaster VMH, Konrad Kircher, Ole Heide and (via Ole Heide) Max Peterson and Vassily Gorb. The NCCPG have supplied support, status and contacts with plant collectors.

Assembling this collection has been a privilege and a joy. It is a living collection and should inspire writings for many years to come.

*Colin Chapman
Executive Vice President - Europe
Norman's Farm
Wyverstone
Stowmarket
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England*

Species of *Syringa* and their cultivars

- Syringa emodi*
Syringa emodi Chad 1417
Syringa emodi 'Aurea'
Syringa josikaea
Syringa josikaea var *eximia*
Syringa josikaea 'Pallida'
Syringa komarowii ssp *reflexa*
Syringa komarowii ssp *reflexa* 'Alba'
Syringa meyeri var *meyeri*
Syringa meyeri var *spontanea*
(Seedling of 12872: Chang & Qim 1989)
Syringa meyeri var *spontanea* 'Palibin'
Syringa oblata ssp *dilatata*
Syringa oblata ssp *dilatata* var *donaldii*
Syringa oblata ssp *dilatata* 'Cheyenne'
Syringa pinnatifolia L 1616
Syringa protolaciniata
Syringa pubescens ssp *pubescens*
Syringa pubescens ssp *julianae*
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *julianae* 'George Eastman'
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *julianae* 'Hers Variety'
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *microphylla* var *microphylla*
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *microphylla* var *microphylla*
(Xin Lu Chen expedition 1992)
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *microphylla* var *potaninii*
Syringa pubescens ssp *patula*
Syringa pubescens
 ssp *patula* KFBX 115
Syringa pubescens ssp *patula*
 'Miss Kim'
Syringa reticulata ssp *amurensis*
Syringa reticulata
 ssp *pekinensis* L1623
Syringa reticulata
 ssp *pekinensis* 'Pendula'
Syringa reticulata
 ssp *reticulata* 'Chantilly Lace'
Syringa sweginzowii
Syringa tomentella
Syringa tomentella 'Kum Bum'
- Syringa vulgaris*
Syringa vulgaris 'Lake Bled'
Syringa vulgaris var *alba*
Syringa villosa
Syringa villosa 'Alba'
Syringa villosa 'Rosea'
Syringa wolfii var *hirsuta*
Syringa yunnanensis
Syringa yunnanensis AGS 2281
Syringa yunnanensis L 934
Syringa yunnanensis L 1084
Syringa yunnanensis 'Prophesy'
Syringa yunnanensis 'Rosea'
Syringa sp. SICH 680

(?)*Syringa adamiana*
(?)*Syringa debelderorum*
(?)*Syringa luminifera*
(?)*Syringa pinetorum*

Hybrids

<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i>
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i> forma <i>bicolor</i>
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i> 'Alba'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i> 'Duplex'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i> 'Metensis'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>chinensis</i> 'Saugeana'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>diversifolia</i> 'William H. Judd'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>henryi</i>
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>henryi</i> 'Alba'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>henryi</i> 'Lutece'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>henryi</i> 'Summer Beauty'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Agnes Smith'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Anna Amhoff'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Bellicent'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Lynette'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>josiflexa</i> 'Royalty'
<i>Syringa</i> × 'Josee' (TM)
<i>Syringa</i> × 'Kim' (?)
<i>Syringa</i> × 'Miss Canada'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>nanceiana</i> 'Floreal' (?)
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>persica</i> 'Alba'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Alexander's Aristocrat'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Alice'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Alice Rose Foster'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Basia'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Danusia'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Desdemona'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Elinor'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Esterka'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Ethel M Webster'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Guinevere'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Goplana'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Hiawatha'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Isabella'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Jagienka'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Maureen'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Miranda' (?)
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Nike'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Silvia'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Telimena'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'Virgilia'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>prestoniae</i> 'W.T. Macoun'
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>swegiflexa</i>
<i>Syringa</i> × <i>swegiflexa</i> × <i>tomentella</i>
'Albida'

Cultivars of *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora*

Alice Eastwood	D6
Anabel	D5
Asessippi	S4
Blanche Sweet.....	S3
Buffon	S5
Charles Nordine(?)	S3
Clark's Giant	S3
Esther Staley	S6
Excel	S4
Fantasy.....	D6
Fraser	S5
Grace	S7
Hyacinthiflora Plena	D4
Lamartine	S5
Maiden's Blush	S5
Mary Short.....	D5
Mount Baker.....	S1
Norah	S4
Patricia.....	D6
Pink Cloud	S6
Pocahontas.....	S7
Purple Glory	S7
Sister Justena	S1
The Bride.....	S1
Tom Taylor	D7

Cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris*

A.B. Lamberton	D8
Abundant Bloomer	S5
Adelaide Dunbar	D7
Agincourt Beauty	S2
Albert F. Holden	S7
Alexander Hamilton	D7
Alexei Mares'ev	S3-4
A.M. Brand	S7
Ami Schott	D3
Amor	S7
Andenken an Ludwig Spath	S6
Andre Csizik	S6
Anna Nickels.....	S4
Anne Schiach.....	S7
Archeveque	D7
Arch McKean	S6

Cultivars of *Syringa ×hyacinthiflora* – continued

Atheline Wilbur	D6	Dorothy Ramsden	S7
Aucubaefolia	D3	Downfield	D6
Aurea	S2	Doyen Keteleer	D4
Avalanche	D1	Dr. Charles Jacobs	S7
Azurea Plena	D3	Dr. Lemke-No 71	D4
		Drifting Dream	D2
Banquise	D1	Dr. John Rankin	S2
Belle de Nancy	D5	Dusk	S7
Belorusskie Zori	S4-5	Dwight D Eisenhower	S3
Biala Anna	S1	Duc de Massa	D3
Bleuatre	S3	<u>Dzavakharlal Nehru</u>	S7
Blue Danube	S3		
Blue Delft	S3	Edith Cavell	D1
Blue Delight	S3	Edward J Gardener	D5
Blue Ice	S3	Eleanor Berdeen	S3-4
Blue Jay	S3	Elena Vekhova	D1
Blue Skies (TM)	S3-7	Elsie Lenore	S5-6
Bogdan <u>Khemel'niński</u>	D5	Emile Lemoine	D4
Bridal Memories	S1	Etna	S7
Bright Centennial	S7	Etoile de mai	D7-1
Burgomeester Voller	S5	Father John L Fiala	
		Fale Baltyku	S3
Calvin C. Laney	S7	Farrionensis	S4-5
Candeur	S1	Flora	S1
Carley	S1	Florence Christine	S4
Carolyn Mae	D4-5	Flow Blue	D4
Cavour	S2	Fraicheur	S1
Charlemagne	S7	Frank Paterson	S7
Charles Baltet	D4	Fredrick Law Olmsted	S1
Charles Joly	D7		
Charles Lindbergh	S2-3	Gaizin'kalns	D2
Charles Sargent	D3	Galina Ulanova	S1
Charles X	S6	Gastello	S3-4
Charm	S5	General Elwell S Otis	D4
Chmurka	S7	General Pershing	D5
Christophe Colomb	S4	General Sherman	S5
City of Gresham	S6	Geraldine Smith	S1
Clyde Heard	S6	Gertrude Clark	S1
Colbert	D6	Gismonda	D6
Congo	S7	G.J. Baardse	S6
Crepuscule	S3	Glacier	D1
		Gloire d'Aalsmeer	S1
Decaisne	S3	Glory	S6
De Miribel	S2	Golubaya	S3
Descanso Giant	S4		
Diannah Abbott	S2	Hallelujah	S7
Diplomate	S3	Heavenly Blue	S3

Cultivars of *Syringa ×hyacinthiflora* – continued

Helen Schloen	S7	Le Notra	D2
Henri Robert	D2	Leone Gardner	??
Hippolyte Maringer	D4	Leon Gambetta	D4
Hosanna	D2	Lewis Maddock	S4
Humility		Lilarosa	S5
		Lillian Lee	S5
Independence	S1	L'Oncle Tom	S7
Indiya	S7	Logo	
I.V. Michurin	D4-5	Long Fellow	S1
		Louis van Houtte	S7
Jacques Callot	S4	Lourene Wishart	D5
Jane Day	S7	Lucie Baltet	S5
Jan van Tol	S1		
Jeanne d'Arc	D1	Macrostachya	S5
Jeffrey		Magellan	D6
Jessie Gardner	S2	Madame Charles Souchet	S3
Joan Dunbar(?)	S1	Marat Kazei	S3
Johan Mensing	S2	Marechal de Bassompierre	D6
John Kennedy	D1	Marechal Foch	S6
J.R. Koning	S4	Marechal Lannes	D3
Jules Simon	D3	Marengo	S4
Julien Gerardin	D4	Margaret Rice Gould	S7
Justii	S3	Margot Grunewald	D3
Jutrozenka Parmorza	S5	Marie Finon	S1
		Marie Frances	S5
Kapitain Teliga	S7-2	Marie Legraye	S1
Kapriz	D4-5	Marleyensis	S4
Kardynal	S7-2	Martha	S1
Kathy McQuire		Marshal Vasilevskii	D4-5
K.A. Timiryazev	S4	Marshal Zhukov	S4-7
Konigin Luise	S1	Massena	S6
Komsomolka	D4	Maud Notcutt	S1
Konstantin Zaslonov	S5	Maurice Barres	S3
Konstanty Karpow	S5	Maurice de Vilmorin	D4
Kosmos	S2	Mauve Mist	??
Krasavitsa Moskvyy	D1	Maximowicz	D2
Krasnaya Moskva	S7	McMaster Centennial	D1
Kremlevskie Kuranty	S4	Mechta	S3-4
		Michel Buchner	D4
Lake Bled	S6	M.I. Kalinin	S2-4
Lady Lindsay	S6	Minchanka	S2
La Tour D'Auvergne	D6	Mireille	D1
Lebedushka	S1	Mme Antoine Buchner	D5
Lemoinei	D4	Mme August Gouchault	D1
Leonid Leonov	S4	Mme Felix	S1
Lesostepnaya	D?	Mme Florent Stepman	S1
Letha House	S4	Mme Jules Finger	D4

Cultivars of *Syringa* × *hyacinthiflora* – continued

Mme Lemoine	D1	Planchon	D6
Mollie Ann	S4	Pol' Robson	S4-5
Monge	S7	Porcelain Blue	S3
Monique Lemoine	D1	P.P. Konchalovskii	D3-4
Mons. J de Messmaeker	S7	President Carnot	D4
Mons. Lepage	S3	President Grevy	D3
Montaigne	D5	President John Adams	D1
Mont Blanc	S1	President Lambeau	S5
Monument	S1	President Lincoln	S2
Mrs Calvin Coolidge	S6	President Loubet(?)	D6
Mrs Edward Harding	D6	President Poincare	D6
Mrs E. Roosevelt		President Viger	D3
Mrs Harry Bickle	S5	Primrose	S1
Mrs H.J. Cran	??	Primrose (Canada Clone)	S1
Mrs. John S. Williams	S4	Prince of Wales	S4
Mrs K Margaretten		Princess Clementine	D1
Mrs Nancy Reagan		Prinses Beatrix	S1
Mrs Trapman	S7	Prinzessin Klotilde	S1
Mrs Watson Webb	S6	Priscilla	S6
Mrs W.E. Marshall	S7	Prof. Edmund Jankowski	S3
My Favorite	D6	Professor E H Wilson	D1
		Prof. Josef Brzezinski	D5
Nadezhda	D3-4	Reine Elisabeth	S1
Nancy Frick	S5	Rene Jarry-Desloges	D3
Nigricans	S7	Rochester	S1
Nebo Moskvyy	D3-4-6	Romance	S5
Ogni Donbassa	D4	Ronsard	S3
Ogni Moskvyy	S7	Rosace	D4
Old Fashioned	S3	Ruhm von Horstenstein	S6
Olimpiada Kolesnikova	D4-5	Russkaya Krasavitsa	S1
Olive Mae Cummings	D5-2	Russkaya Pesnya	D2
Ostankino	S3		
Ostrander	D7	Sarah Sands	S7
Othello	S6	Savonarole	D3
		Schermerhornii	S5
Pamyati A.T. Smolskoi	S4	Sculptured Ivory	S1
Pamyat o S M Kirove	D4	Senateur Volland	D6
Pat Pesata	S3	Sensation	S7-1
Paul Deschanel	D6	Serene	S5
Paul Hariot	D7	Sesquicentennial	S2
Pauline Fiala	S2	Sholokhov	S4-5
Paul Thirion	D6	Sibirica	S7
Pavlinka	D7	Siebold	D1
Pinkie	S5	Silver King	S3
Pink Lace	S5	Slater's Elegance	S1
Pioner	S4-5-7	Snow Cap	S1

Cultivars of *Syringa* ×*hyacinthiflora* – continued

Sorok Let Komsomola	S4	Violetta	D2
Souvenir d'Alice Harding	D1	Voorzitter Dix	S5
Souvenir de Gaspard Callot	D7		
Souvenir de Louis Chasset	S6	Waldeck Rousseau	D5
Souvenir de Mme Louis Gielis	S1	Wedgwood Blue	S3
Sovetskaya Arktika	D1	White Spires	S1
Stanislaw Maniuszko	S2-6	William Robinson	D4
Statgartner Roththpletz	D7	Winner's Circle	D6
Stefan Makowiecki	S6-7	Wonderblue	S3
St. Joan	D1		
S.V. Lavrov	D4	Yankee Doodle	S7
Sweetheart	D6	<u>Yubileinaya</u>	S4-5
		Yunost	S4-5
Taglioni	D1		
Tankist	S7	Zarya Kommunizma	S6-7
Taras Bul'ba	D4	Zashchitnikam Bresta	D1
Tita	D5	<u>Zhemchuzina</u>	D5
Topaz	S2	Znamy Lenina	S7-8
Toussaint-Louverture	S7	Zoya Kosmodem'yanskaya	S3-4
True Blue	S3	Zulu	S7
Ukraina	S4-5		
Utro Moskvy	D4-5		
Valentina Grizodubova	D5		
Vergissmeinnicht	S3		
Vesper	S7		
Victor Lemoine	D4		
Ville de Troyes(?)	S7		
Volcan	S7		
Violet Glory	S2		

KEY

1	White
2	Violet
3	Bluish
4	Lilac
5	Pink
6	Magenta
7	Purple
S	Single
D	Double

(?) Prefix: good provenance, disavowed name.

(?) Suffix: good provenance, not seen in flower. To be verified.

Plant Collectors' Numbers

AGS	Alpine Garden Society China Expedition - 1994.
CHAD	Chris Chadwell, North India - 1993
KFBX	Kirkham, Flanagan and Boyce Expedition, Korea - 1989
L.	Roy Lancaster, China - 1983, 1986, 1987, 1988

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Who Eats The Pollen?

*By Eugene Fox
Millet, Alberta, Canada*

I have been engaged in hybridizing lilacs for quite a few years. Right from the start, I was intrigued at how fast the pollen from most florets disappeared. Where does it go? Who or what gathered it? Why?

In order to ensure an uncontaminated stigma, I pollinate only unopened florets which I have emasculated by removing the whole corolla to which the anthers are attached. Also to insure that the pollen from the chosen pollen parent is uncontaminated, I select a panicle of unopened florets and cut it, put in a vase and keep it in the house or in a screened outbuilding. Besides protecting the florets from contamination of other pollen, the pollen on these florets is itself protected from a host of pollen or nectar eaters. In a matter of hours on most of the outside lilacs, all the pollen is gone. Who is responsible? Well, actually quite a throng of "agents of pollination" are involved.

When the floret first opens, two tiny orbs of yellow become visible. At first, these yellow anthers are firm and if crushed yield a golden paste. However, if these anthers get a chance to age or mature, they finally split (dehisce) and yield what appears to be a light yellow powder. That "powder" however, is made up of thousands of pollen grains. It is pollen as I'm sure everyone realizes. It is a great source of nutrition for insects. Scads of insects seem to rely upon it as a source of food. In turn, the lilacs rely upon the insect agents to gather it and in so doing to inadvertently assist in pollination. In the natural course of things, the insects go from lilac to lilac in their nectar sipping or pollen seeking behavior and some pollen gets moved from one lilac to another and is left behind to cross-fertilize.

It is interesting to see a hummingbird hawk moth at work collecting nectar from lilacs. Please note that I am talking about a hawk moth here that is called a "hummingbird" moth and not about the birds who really are hummingbirds. Actually, at first glance a hummingbird hawk moth is often mistaken for a hummingbird as it hovers before each flower, wings humming audibly and invisibly. The moth however, is brown, not that nice iridescent green or russet of the feathers of the hummingbird. Also, the moth has two very pronounced antennae protruding from the forehead region that are absent on the bird. Some moths are as huge as real hummingbirds, but mostly they are somewhat smaller. The moths become very active after dusk, while the hummingbirds seem to prefer daylight. Some hummingbirds will actually make a twilight trip or two, just before daylight fades. The moths do not have the lateral flight speed of the hummingbirds either, so will not be seen streaking huge distances over the landscape. The moths tend to fly rather straight up or skyward, then arc down abruptly to the lilac shrub.

To see hummingbird hawk moths, I often take a flashlight with me to

illuminate their activity and study their procedures. If I am respectful of their space, they continue to "work" each lilac floret. Work is when they hover before a floret and uncoil their long string-like proboscis into the center of the floret to vacuum up the sweet nectar syrup. However, sometimes in my interest, I've held the flashlight too close, too often, to observe and the moth became irritated. One such time, I was standing atop a sawhorse following a hawk moth on a tall lilac very closely with my flashlight when it "turned on me". It flew at my face and my cap with an instant fury. I jerked back, my hat flew off and I flew off the sawhorse. The hawk moth went straight back to work and I left it alone.

This I know, hawk moths visit every open floret on the same panicle before moving on to another panicle. "Selfing" or placing the pollen of the same lilac upon the stigmas of the very same lilac occurs with high frequency. Fortunately, that does not rule out entirely a subsequent cross-pollination as pollen grains which have fallen on their own stigmas grow very slowly. That is right, the pollen grains germinate on the stigma and grow long pollen tubes down through the stigma to fertilize the ovules in the ovary. Now, if these pollen grains are from the same plant they grow the tubes slowly and if one or a few grains from a different lilac get on the stigma from a new visitor, they grow more rapidly and will get to the ovary first and fertilize the ovules and become the seeds. Selfing may also not occur immediately as the pollen may not have been ripe enough to rub off yet. That is, the pollen and the stigmas may not be ready for fertilization at the same juncture. Sometimes also the insect will get pollen on its anthers and fly directly to an unrelated lilac and actually cross-pollinate very well. However, "selfing" does occur. As Father Fiala has noted with Rochester at least, selfing results in dwarfing and lack of vigor in the seedlings. Also, we know that cross-pollination between two unrelated plants, yields a higher probability of new forms arising from the seeds as the genetic diversity of the parents is twice as great.

Collecting open-pollinated seed will invariably lead to a majority of seedling lilacs that are the product of selfing. Only a few open pollinated seeds will likely be from outcrossing or from two different lilac clones. Using open pollinated seeds is thus very uneconomical if one is looking for new colors, new forms and healthy plants.

In observing hawk moths and some of the other insects, I have noted that they prefer to stay with flowers of the same color while on a specific tour of duty. I had three small lilacs blooming in a nursery row. Two were pink, 'Maidens Blush', and one was a white, 'Rochester', in between the two pink. The moth spent all evening visiting the two 'Maidens Blush' and all the next evening on the 'Rochester'. Very little stopping at a different colored floret was observed. In other words, seldom would or could cross-fertilization occur. Insect and hummingbird behavior experiments by the scientific community confirm my observations.

Bees also work lilacs, but unlike the moths they do it for the pollen. You

may have seen the yellow pollen stored in balls on the bees' legs. In fact, the pollen was known as "beebread" by some old pioneers. Bees love lilacs. In fact, so numerous were the honey bees and bumble bees around the lilacs that shade our front porch that they collectively sounded like a big engine running. These honey bees often fly in from over two miles distant where their keeper has hives in an alfalfa and clover hay meadow. My scholarly daughters would spend hours reading and writing on that porch. They liked the hum of the bees and could instantly recognize the deeper base tuba tones of the rarer big bumble bees from the myriad softer humming of the honey bees.



Bees are efficient pollen gathers and dislodge a bit of pollen for selfing of the lilac bloom and also carry some on their bristly thorax from floret to floret and to other lilac bushes to actually both self-fertilize and cross-fertilize. In the last 27 years, the bumble bees have never been absent and the honey bees have missed only one or two seasons when heavy rains persisted all lilac season or the beekeeper moved his hives too far away. Hence, every lilac seed pod is usually full of seed, every year.

We have western swallowtail butterflies at our farm. They come by the dozens during lilac bloom season. These big graceful, black and yellow butterflies love the lilacs and they are not too skittish, so one can observe them or photograph them on a lilac panicle, at close range. I cannot recall a single year in three decades that they did not return to the lilacs around our country home. Like the hawk moths, the butterflies garner the nectar by inserting their long hair-like proboscis deep into the corolla of the floret. Of course the uncoiled proboscis passes through the center aperture on each of which are the pollen laden anthers. Some pollen may be dislodged onto the pistil below to self-pollinate and some pollen may adhere to the fuzzy heads, antennae and wings. This latter pollen will travel with the butterfly onto the next lilacs that are visited and some pollen grains may fall onto the stigma of the waiting florets and via such frequent happenstance, a cross-pollination may take place.



Various beetles and aphids of all sizes and coloration have been found on lilac shrubs. Some appear to have suction mouth parts and to feed on nectar, while others appear to eat the pollen only. Their activities, one way or another would mean that the pollen is removed or consumed. Tiny bugs, some with wings, some without visible flight ability, crawl around, over, through and into florets. Some of these little fellows are as small as the hyphens or periods printed on this page. To them, the floret is a feeding station and in feeding they move the pollen around to cause mostly self-pollination. Certain double lilacs such as 'Ellen Willmot' or 'Krasavitska Moskyv' will set the odd seed even though the double florets are so formed that one or two petals cover the opening to the anthers and the inside of

that one or two petals cover the opening to the anthers and the inside of the flower corolla. However, these little insects just crawl beneath the folds of the petals and bring about a pollination while nibbling on the pollen or sipping the nectar. Some types of ants, although considerably larger, like to drink nectar and may be implicated in pollinating not only these hard-to-pollinate double lilacs, but the single lilacs also. Ants, we have all observed love peony nectars, but they will gather nectar and sweet exudates from any suitable donor plant.

We have noticed little brown, little blue and smaller multi-colored butterflies from time to time visiting our lilacs. Likewise, a number of different tiger moths and dull-colored moths of less than an inch in length call by at times. In short, there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of bugs of variable description, who dine out, on our lilac blooms.

It looks like we humans feast our eyes upon the lilac blooms and savor their fragrance, while our insect friends feast in fact on the nectar and the pollen. That is "who" gets the pollen at our farm. I imagine that in other geographical locations, some of the same insects plus others are the active pollen transporters.

Eugene Fox and his wife, Gail, live on a farm of 160 acres in Alberta in western Canada. Gene actively hybridizes lilies, Siberian iris and lilacs. He has about 8 acres of lilies and a more modest amount of lilacs and Siberian iris. He is a retired professor of psychology who has "reinvented himself" to conform to his lifelong hobby. Lilacs fill many needs for him and he has over 85 different named cultivars and species. As you might suspect, Gene has a few more hundred lilacs under evaluation which are grown from the seed of his own controlled crosses.

Lilac Plantings in Eastern Nebraska

by Max Peterson

The International Lilac Society members in Nebraska are developing two lilac displays in Eastern Nebraska. One is located in the newly developed Omaha Botanical Gardens and the other is in Nebraska City at the Arbor Day Foundation Headquarters. The enclosed list reflects the current species and cultivars collected for planting at these two sites.

Omaha is approximately 300+ miles from any collection in Ogallala and up to this time, there were no significant lilac plantings in Eastern Nebraska. Thus we wish to establish a lilac showcase in the heavily populated Eastern section of Nebraska. The nearest lilac collection to Omaha is the Ewing Park Lilac collection in Des Moines, Iowa and that's a three hour drive East of Omaha.

This fall the first plantings were put in at Nebraska City. The Arbor Lodge State Historical Park at Nebraska City is the site of the historical home of J. Sterling Morton. The beautiful Morton Mansion is surrounded by gardens and tree trails and has a 65+ acre arboretum. Working closely with the staff at the arboretum, our I.L.S. members have designed a "lilac walk". Sixty-nine lilacs have been planted on either side of a winding walkway in an ideal site. Future plans call for additional lilac plantings there to complete the lilac walk.

In addition to the lilac plantings at the Arbor Lodge site, thirty-four lilacs have been planted at the entrance area to the Lied Conference Center at Nebraska City. The Lied Conference Center is situated on a hillside opposite the Arbor Lodge State Historical Park and is situated among 260 acres of orchards and trails. The Lied facility features state-of-the-art meeting facilities and has 96 guest rooms (200 more guest rooms will be added this coming year.) The lilac plantings in Nebraska City will showcase the diversity available in Lilacs to a very large number of people, as large conventions are held at the Lied Conference Center frequently throughout the year. These conventions are held by national groups associated with horticulture-the timber industry, the nut tree industry, flower and garden organizations, and many other groups involved in conservation and horticulture. Nebraska City is located about an hour's drive south of Omaha. Our I.L.S. members will continue to work with the authorities in Nebraska City, to develop what will undoubtedly be a fine showcase of lilac plantings there in about 5 or 6 years.

The site for the Lilac Garden at The Omaha Botanical Gardens is located between the large Japanese Garden and the Rose Garden. The Japanese Garden is being developed in association with Omaha's sister city in Japan; plans include a Japanese Tea House within the traditional Japanese Garden. The Rose Garden is well established and beautifully executed. Thus the location of the lilacs will assure a high degree of visibility to the many

visitors expected there. The I.L.S. members have planned for planting over 150 lilacs there this coming spring.

Darlene and I visited the two lilac garden sites in Omaha and Nebraska City in late October and we found the progress well underway. The Nebraska members of the I.L.S. have planned well, and the lilacs they planted were thriving. We were impressed by the ongoing enthusiasm for these projects and the many hours of work dedicated to these projects by our I.L.S. members. Hoyt Lambert of Omaha heads up the committee working on this worthwhile endeavor; his assistant is Jan Fricke of rural Elkhorn, Nebraska.

I have, and will continue to, contribute lilac plantings to this project. However, at this time we are a bit weak in species and the newer varieties of lilacs and thus are seeking contributions. The enclosed list reflects lilac plants collected to this point. I would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide to Mr. Lambert in our effort to create outstanding lilac collections in Eastern Nebraska.

— December 1996

LILAC ACQUISITION LIST FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LILAC GARDENS IN EASTERN NEBRASKA

(Acquisition Committee-I.L.S. members Hoyt Lambert and J.K. Fricke)

An asterisk * following letter-number code indicates cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage.

S IV	'Agata', Bulgala	<i>Prestoniae</i>
S III-IV	'Aleksi Mares'ev', Kolesnikov 1951	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Alenushka', Shtanjko and Miklaiiov 1956	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S II	'Ambassadeur', Lemoine 1930	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	'Anabel', Hawkins 1956	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
D III-IV	'Andryusha Gromov', Kolesnikov 1980	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VII	'Arthur William Paul', Lemoine 1898	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D III*	'Aucubaefolia', Gouchault pre 1919	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	'Bicentennial', Fenicchia	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	'Blue Giant', Fiala 1977	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Bridal Memories', Max Peterson 1993	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Candeur', Lemoine 1931	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	'Capitaine Perrault', Lemoine 1925	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Carley', Havemeyer	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Catinat', Lemoine 1922	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S II	'Cavour', Lemoine 1910	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Charm', Havemeyer, pre 1941	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	'Charmant', origin unknown, 1975	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Churchill', Skinner 1945	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
D I	'Clarke's Double White', Clarke 1968	<i>Vulgaris</i>

S VI	..... 'Clyde Heard', Heard 1984	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	..... 'Coerulea Superba', Ellwanger & Barry 1868.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	..... 'Comte Horace de Choiseul', Lemoine 1887	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	..... 'Congo', Lemoine 1896	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	..... 'Cora Lyden', Alexander	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	..... 'Crayton Red', pre 1931	<i>Chinensis</i>
S III	..... 'Doctor Chadwick', Skinner	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S VII	..... 'Dorothy Ramsden', Alexander.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	<i>(name not validly published)</i>	
S	..... 'Dwarf Arnold',	<i>Meyeri</i>
S III	..... 'Dwight D. Eisenhower', Fenicchia 1968	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	..... 'Dzhavakharlal Neru', Kolesnikov 1980	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	..... 'Edith Cavell', Lemoine 1916.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	..... 'Edward J. Gardner', Gardner pre 1950	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	..... 'Esther Staley', Clarke 1948	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S VII	..... 'Etna', Lemoine 1927	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VI	..... 'Fantasy', Clarke 1960	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S	..... 'S. <i>fauriei</i> Le'veille'	<i>Fauriei</i>
S I	..... 'Flora', Eveleens Maarse 1953.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	..... 'Florence Christine', Stone	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	..... 'Frank Paterson', Paterson 1961	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	..... 'Frederick Law Olmstead', Fenicchia	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VI	..... 'Georges Bellaire', Lemoine 1900	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	..... 'Glory', Havemeyer pre 1954	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	..... 'Golubaya', Kolesnikov.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	..... 'Goplana', Bugala	<i>Prestoniae</i>
D IV	..... 'Henri Martin', Lemoine 1912	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D II	..... 'Hosanna' Fiala 1969	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV	..... 'S. <i>hyacinthiflora</i> ', Lemoine 1878	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
	..... 'Hyperion', Sass, H.E.	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	<i>(name not validly published)</i>	
S IV	..... 'Indiya', Kolesnikov 1955.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	..... 'Isabella', Preston 1927	<i>Prestoniae</i>
D VII	..... 'Jake Thomas', Klager	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	..... 'Jan van Tol', van Tol ca. 1916	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	..... 'Jean Bart', Lemoine 1889	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	..... 'Jean Mace', Lemoine 1915	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VI	..... 'Jeffrey', Max Peterson.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	<i>(not introd.)</i>	
S II	..... 'Jessie Gardner', Gardner	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	..... 'Joan Dunbar', Dunbar 1923.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	..... S. <i>julianna</i> 'Hers Variety'	<i>Julianae</i>
	..... S. <i>julianna</i> Sdlg.	<i>Julianae</i>
S IV	..... 'K.A. Timiryazev', Kolesnikov 1955.....	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV-V	..... 'Kapriz', Kolesnikov 1952	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	..... 'Kate Bergen', Berdeen	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	<i>(name not validly published)</i>	
S I	..... 'Kate Harlin', Pfitzer, W. Sr. 1910	<i>Vulgaris</i>

D V	'Katherine Havemeyer', Lemoine 1922	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	'Kingsville', Hohman 1947	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV	'Komsomolka', Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S II	'Kosmos', Shtanjko and Mikhailov 1956	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', Kolesnikov 1947	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	'Krasnaya', Moskva, Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	'Laplace', Lemoine 1913	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII	'Lavender Lady', Lammerts 1954	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S V	'Lee Jewett Walker', Berdeen 1981	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Lucie Baltet', Baltet pre 1888	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	'Madame Charles Souchet', Lemoine 1949	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	'Maiden's Blush' Skinner 1966	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S IV	'Marengo', Lemoine 1923	<i>Vulgaris</i>
??	'Mauve Mist', Havemeyer-Eaton	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D II	'Maximowicz', Lemoine 1906	<i>Vulgaris</i>
??	'Max Peterson', Ken Berdeen	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	<i>S. meyeri</i> , C. Schneider	<i>Meyeri</i>
S IV	<i>S. microphylla</i>	<i>Microphylla</i>
S II	'M. I. Kalinin', Kolesnikov 1941	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S II	'Minchanka', Smol'skii & Bibikova 1964	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	'Mme Antione Buchner', Lemoine 1909	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	'Mme. F. Morel', Morel 1892	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	'Mme. Lemoine', Lemoine 1890	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	'Monique Lemoine', Lemoine 1939	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	'Montaigne', Lemoine 1907	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Mont Blanc', Lemoine 1917	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Monument', Lemoine 1934	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	'Moonlight', Havemeyer 1943	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	'Mount Baker', Skinner 1961	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
D VI	'My Favorite', Klager 1928	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D III-IV	'Nadezhda', Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D III-IV-VI	'Nebo Moskvyy', Kolesnikov 1963	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	'Nokomis', Skinner 1934	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S IV	'Norah', Preston	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S I	<i>S. oblata</i> var. <i>affinis</i>	<i>Oblata</i>
S V	<i>S. oblata</i> var. <i>dilatata</i>	<i>Oblata</i>
S V	<i>S. oblata</i> var. <i>dilatata</i>	<i>Oblata</i>
S VII	<i>S. oblata</i> var. <i>donaldii</i> , R. Clark & J. Fiala	<i>Oblata</i>
D IV-V	'Olimpiada Kolesnikova', Kolesnikov 1941	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV	'Pamyat' o.S.M. Kirove', Kolesnikov 1943	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VI	'Paul Thirion', Lemoine 1915	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	'Perle von Teltow', Grunewald 1913	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	'Pink Cloud', Clarke 1947	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S VII	'Pocahontas', Skinner 1935	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S IV-III	'Pol Robson', Kolesnikov 1965	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	'Porcelain Blue', Fiala 1981	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV	'President Fallieres', Lemoine 1911	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D III	'President Grevy', Lemoine 1886	<i>Vulgaris</i>

D VI	‘President Loubet’, Lemoine 1901	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D III	‘President Viger’, Lemoine 1900	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	‘Primrose’, G. Maarse 1949	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	‘Prince of Wales’, Dougall 1874	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	‘Priscilla’, Havemeyer pre 1941	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D V	‘Prof. Josef Brzezinski’, Karpow-Lipski 1938	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	‘Professor E. Stockhardt’, Eichler 1862	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D VII	‘Royal Purple’, Skinner 1966	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
??	‘Ruby Cole’, Max Peterson	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
D I	‘Saint Margaret’, Blacklock 1953	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII & I	‘Sensation’, Eveleens Maarse 1938	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S II	‘Sesquicentennial’, Fennichia	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV-V	‘Sholokhov’, Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	‘Siebold’, Lemoine 1906	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S III	‘Silver King’, Lemke 1941	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	‘Sister Justena’, Skinner 1956	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S I	‘Slater’s Elegance’, Slater 1983	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	‘Sorok Let Komsomola’, Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	‘Souvenir d’Alice Harding’, Lemoine 1938	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D I	‘Sovetskaya Arktika’, Kolesnikov 1955	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S II-III	‘Sumerki’, Kolesnikov 1954	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	‘Summer Skies’, Clarke 1948	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
D VI	‘Sunset’, Clarke 1949	<i>Hyacinthiflora</i>
S V	‘Superba’, Cassegrain 1933	<i>Microphylla</i>
D VI	‘Sweetheart’, Clarke 1953	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S V	‘Telimena’, Bugala	<i>Prestoniae</i>
D IV-V	‘Utro Moskv’y’, Kolesnikov 1938	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S	‘Variegata’, pre 1826	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S I	‘Vestale’, Lemoine 1910	<i>Vulgaris</i>
D IV	‘Victor Lemoine’, Lemoine 1906	<i>Vulgaris</i>
	‘Villosa Aurea’	<i>Villosa</i>
D V	‘Waldeck-Rousseau’, Lemoine 1904	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S IV	‘William C. Barry’, Dunbar 1917	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VI	<i>S. wolfii</i>	<i>Wolfii</i>
S IV-V	‘Yubileinaya’, Shtan’ko & Mikhailov 1956	<i>Vulgaris</i>
S VII-IV	‘Znamya Lenian’, Kolesnikov	<i>Vulgaris</i>

Tips for Beginners

Why Do Plant Names Have To Be In Latin?

Conversational references to plants are regularly made in vernacular (or common) form such as lilac, tomato or magnolia. This is fine as long as both parties know the plant, but such common names become a problem when there is more than one, or a visitor comes from another region or country. For example, my grandmother always called her mockorange (*Philadelphus*) "my syringa bush," and she lived only one state away from me. What if she had been halfway around the world? To prevent confusion, there have to be some ground rules for naming plants.

In the beginning of plant classification and nomenclature, plants were referred to by Latin or Greek descriptions and the scientific community, over the centuries, began to rely on the Latin language for plant nomenclature for very good reasons. Latin was/is a language which, since it is no longer in conversational use, does not change over time. In addition, Latin uses the Roman alphabet, eliminating the confusion of drawn characters found in Chinese or Hebrew. So Latin has been chosen by usage, but there must also be rules. Remember the original names in Latin were common names, and, without rules, would present us with all the same problems we encounter when referring to a plant by its present day common name. Those rules are set forth in the **International Code of Botanical Nomenclature** and the **International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants**. These rules ensure that all plants are named properly. A copy of both sets of rules should be required reading for anyone planning to name a new plant introduction. These rules set out procedures that ensure a plant species has only one scientific or botanical name, and no two different plants share that same name. Each botanical name is a binomial consisting of two singular nouns or other words frequently of Greek or Latin origin. The first word is the genus and the second designates a particular species of the genus and is called the specific epithet. Together, both words comprise the species name. The genus always is capitalized; the specific epithet is not. The full botanical name, correctly written, is italicized or underlined, and is followed by the name, abbreviation or initial of the author who first published the name. Thus, *Syringa vulgaris* L. indicates that Carl von Linne - latinized to Carolus Linnaeus - first published this plant name.

The different named lilacs are called varieties or cultivars (from cultivated varieties) and their naming also is covered by rules. The name is set off by single quotes or preceded by cv., all the words are capitalized and never underlined e.g. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Wedgwood Blue'. No one should consider naming a cultivar without knowing the rules of naming cultivars or how to register them properly. When the Tentative Check List of *Syringa* cultivars

names was put together, we found three lilacs named 'Dawn' and five named 'Alba'.

Hybrid plants include the symbol × (or "x", if only typewriter script is available) in their name to indicate that two different species have been crossed to produce the new species e.g. *Syringa* × *chinensis*.

So, everyone needs to learn the botanical or scientific name to use when looking for a particular plant. It's the only way of ensuring that you will find the exact plant you had in mind. Don't let learning a bit of Latin put you off. Emulate the gardener who, when asked how he remembered "all those Latin names" replied "look at yourself, you don't have any trouble remembering the names of your friends."

The Lilac Gardens of Charles and Connie Sherer

by Connie Sherer

My interest in lilacs stemmed from my friendship with Esther Seeliger, a retired VA nurse. I had known her for twenty years. She worked at numerous VA hospitals and traveled extensively during the 1930's and 1940's. She visited Lombard, Illinois for their Lilac Festival in 1934. She was very impressed with the variety of lilacs and their beauty, commenting on many of their large blooms. She enjoyed their festival and remembered it very clearly. Before she passed away at 92, she gave me the Lombard program. I had only thought of lilacs as white, lavender and purple. Once I read the program and lilac list I was hooked.

We began planting lilacs in 1986 from the usual mail order nurseries, only to find them misnamed when they bloomed three or four years later. I discovered I.L.S. about that time and found more reliable nurseries. We discarded a number of poor cultivars and made a new start.

In 1988 I purchased Fr. Fiala's book *Lilac's, The Genus Syringa*. I wore out the book coveting all the beautiful varieties pictured therein. Through my membership in Falconskeape, I was able to obtain eight of Fr. Fiala's tissue cultured lilacs. It was fun to watch those tiny plants grow into beautiful blooming bushes.

A letter I wrote to one of the mail order lilac nurseries asking about some unusual cultivars led me to I.L.S. member Max Peterson of Ogallala, Nebraska. Max shipped us fifteen hard to find lilacs including seven cultivars by the Russian hybridizer Leonid Kolesnikov. I must say the Russian varieties are among our favorites and we feel so fortunate to have them.

In 1996 we had hoped for a good spring bloom on the lilacs, as we are very prone to late frosts. Mother Nature cooperated and we had one of our best bloom seasons to date. Our plants are still young, but we look forward each year to a few new ones blooming for the first time. We have ninety-two plants and seventy-five varieties. We had our Lilac Sunday on April 28, 1996 and the weather was perfect. We had invited some sixty guests and

their friends and family. The lilacs were outstanding and their fragrance was commented on by many. As usual, when shown the variety of lilacs available, most people become very interested in them.

This spring we will be digging starts to fill requests for plants everyone saw and wanted last year. Max so generously shared with us the varieties we couldn't buy, that we are trying to respond in like manner. We hope to raise the interest in growing lilacs by sharing plants with our friends.

Do plan to drop by if you are in our area. Our address is Charles and Connie Sherer, 2709 S. 3rd Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362.

Research Abstracts

Editor's Note:

These abstracts are reports of published research. They are included here as a sampling of lilac research being done around the world.

GREEN, P.S.; CHANG, M.C. **Some taxonomic changes in *Syringa* L. (Oleaceae), including a revision of series *Pubescentes*.** *Novon* (1995) 5 (4) 329-333 [En, 6 ref.] Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AE, UK.

A number of species of *Syringa* are reviewed, and series *Pubescentes* is revised. At infraspecific rank, the following new combinations in *Syringa* from Asia are proposed: *S. komarowii* subsp. *reflexa*, *S. oblata* subsp. *dilatata*, *S. reticulata* subsp. *amurensis*, *S. reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis* and *S. pubescens* subsp. *microphylla* var. *potaninii*. Identification keys are presented.

— *Plant Breeding Abstracts 1996, Vol. 66 (No. 6) page 907*

CHRONOPOULOS, J.; CHRONOPOULOU-SERELI, A.; PAPAFOTIU, M. **[The ability woody ornamental plants to adapt to the urban environment of Athens.]** Die Anpassungsfähigkeit von Ziergehölzen im urbanen Bereich Athens. *Gartenbauwissenschaft* (1996) 61 (4) 197-200 [De, en, 14 ref., 1 map] Agricultural University of Athens, Iera Odos 75, Athens 118 55, Greece.

The growth and development of *Buddleia* [*Buddleja*] *davidii*, *Deutzia crenata*, *Duranta plumieri* [*D. erecta*], *Kerria japonica*, *Ligustrum ovalifolium*, *Rhus cotinus* [*Cotinus cogggria*], *Spiraea prunifolia*, *Symphoricarpos albus*, *Syringa vulgaris* and *Weigela cv. Bristol Ruby* were compared at sites in the urban environment of Athens and outside the city. Temperature and humidity conditions were defined and phenological observations (beginning of vegetation and flowering), as well as biometrical measurements (shoot diameter, leaf area) were carried out. In addition, the Pb concentration in the leaves was measured and the coefficient of correlation between this and the mean leaf area was calculated. It was established that the mean monthly air temperature at the urban site was 2-3°C higher than outside the city. As a consequence of this, plants at the urban site showed earlier bud break and flowering. This shift was 5-20 days, depending on the species. A reduction in shoot diameter and total leaf area, up to 60%, was shown for plants at the urban site. This reduction was correlated with the 14 to 19-fold higher Pb concentrations found in these plants. A negative coefficient of correlation ($r = -0.76$) was established between leaf Pb concentration and mean leaf area. Phenological observations and biometrical measurements indicated that *Spiraea prunifolia* and *Syringa vulgaris* showed the best adaptation, while *Deutzia crenata*, *Duranta plumieri* and *Symphoricarpos albus* showed the poorest adaption to the urban environment of Athens.

— *Horticultural Abstracts 1996, Vol. 66 (No. 12) page 1342*

YANG, G. C.; READ, P.E. **Pre-forcing bleach and ethanol solution treatments help break bud dormancy of forced woody plant species.**

PGRSA Quarterly (1996) 24 (1/2) 67-78 [En, 14 ref.] Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Design, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC 27411, USA

Dormant stems of *Syringa vulgaris*, *Ligustrum vulgare* and *Spiraea ×vanhouttei* were collected in Nebraska in Nov. and Dec. 1991. Soaking the basal third of stems in 5, 10, 15, or 20% bleach for 15 min., 10% bleach for 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 min, 25, 50, 75 or 95% ethanol for 15 min or soaking the complete cutting in 10% bleach for 15 min were compared with water-soaked controls. Following treatment the basal 0.3 cm was cut off and stems were placed in forcing solution containing GA₃, 200 mg 8-hydroxyquinoline citrate/litre and 2% sucrose to break bud dormancy and produce shoots suitable for softwood cuttings. Bud break and shoot elongation were optimal in *S. vulgaris* and *L. vulgare* following soaking of the basal third of stems in 10% bleach or 75% ethanol for 15 min. Soaking in bleach or ethanol repressed bud break in *S. vanhouttei*.

— *Horticultural abstracts 1997*
Vol. 67 (No. 1) pg 82

TRIPEPI, R.R.; GEORGE, M.W.; CAMPBELL, A.G.; SHAFII, B. **Evaluating pulp and paper sludge as a substitute for peat moss in container media.** *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* (1996) 14 (2) 91-96 [En, 22 ref.] Department of Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-2339, USA.

Pulp and paper sludge from a newsprint mill was composted for 6 weeks and evaluated as a substitute for peat moss in container media. One-year-old seedlings of *Syringa vulgaris* and *Acertataricum* subsp. *ginnala* as well as rooted cuttings of *Prunus ×cistena* were planted in #1 plastic pots that contained a pine bark and sand mixture (2:1 by vol.) or pine bark and sand amended with either 25% or 50% peat moss or composted paper sludge. A 75% compost medium that consisted of composted paper sludge and sand (3:1 by vol) was also used. Plant height was measured every 4 weeks. After 14 weeks of growth, shoot DW and final plant height were measured. All plants in compost-amended media grew as well as or better than those in peat amended media, regardless of species. *S. vulgaris* plants in 25% compost produced almost double the amount of shoot DW and were 80% taller than plants in the bark:sand or 25% peat media. *A.tataricum* subsp. *ginnala* plants in 50% compost produced at least 33% more shoot DW than those in either peat-amended medium. *P. cistena* cuttings in 25% compost grew at least 53% taller than those in either peat-amended medium.

— *Horticultural Abstracts 1997*
Vol 67 (No.1) pg 82

ALEXANDER, J.H. III **Would a lilac by any other name smell so sweet? A search for fragrance.** *Arnoldia (Boston)*(1996) 56(1) 25-28 [En, 2 ref.] Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3519, USA.

During 1982-83, flowers of cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris*, *S. ×hyacinthiflora* (hybrid of *S. vulgaris* and *S. oblata*) and *S. chinensis*, and flowers of *S. meyeri*, *S. oblata* and *S. pubescens*, growing at the Arnold Arboretum, were sniffed by 2 testers and awarded a rating (0 = no fragrance, 3 = strong fragrance) (data tabulated). Flowers varied in fragrance rating both within cultivars and between years.

— *Horticultural Abstracts 1997*
Vol. 67 (No.1) pg 84

CITY TO REPAIR BELLE ISLE LANDMARK

*Architects ready plans for fixing up 1903 conservatory,
replacing broken windows.*

by Anjali J. Sekhar – The Detroit News

It's almost like a ghost town on cold winter afternoons, with silent, deserted rooms and broken glass panels in the large, grayish dome.

The tropical exhibit room is chilly. The floor and plants are spotted with bird droppings in a building that has seen better days.

But plans are under way by the city of Detroit to restore the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, built in 1903 at Belle Isle.

The Detroit Recreation Department has hired architects to draft plans to restore the conservatory, which has housed flower and plant shows for decades.

Richard Hautau, the department's chief landscape architect, said the city has recruited Albert Kahn & Associates, the building's original design firm, to draft plans for what requires fixing, Hautau said.

"We're trying to get things into place," said Hautau. Voters approved bonds in an August 1996 primary to cover the cost of repairs, estimated at \$1 million.

"It's a historic facility," the architect added. "We'll get about the business of getting the drawings out and getting the repairs done."

The first concern is replacing broken panels in the 85-foot dome housing palm trees.

"Last time there were any big repairs was in the '50s," Hautau said. "They've done glass repairs over the years, but this will be the first hit on the dome."

The 19th-century conservatory also needs fresh paint, new heating valves and temperature monitors. Officials also are considering whether to expand the building by installing a vestibule and adding bathrooms.

But the windows need immediate attention, said Jim Justus, supervisor of the floriculture unit. A hailstorm broke glass panels a few years ago. Birds routinely fly in, Justus said.

The last major repairs were made in 1949, when the wings and dome were rebuilt using glass and aluminum. The building – a replica of Monticello, Thomas Jefferson's Virginia estate – originally was wooden.

The Belle Isle Botanical Society, a volunteer group, is donating time and money to help restore the landmark.

Bill Horman, former conservatory employee and co-founder of the Botanical Society, said: "The conservatory is a marvelous institution. But it's kind of taken for granted it'll always be there."

Even if architectural drawings are ready by midyear, Hautau said, it still will be a tough job. "We have a tremendous amount of work to do," he said.

*Sunday Detroit News and Free Press
January 12, 1997*

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