

# LILACS

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2

SPRING 1992



*Glory*

## **QUARTERLY JOURNAL**

of the International Lilac Society

---

*IN THIS  
ISSUE:* **Convention Program**

---

*A Publication of*  
**THE INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY**

*Copyright 1992 Editor*

---

*Copies of this publication are available by writing to the International Lilac Society, c/o Mrs. Pauline Fiala, 6995 Congress Road, Spencer, Ohio 44275. \$5.00 (U.S.)*

---

### International Lilac Society

Executive Vice President .....	<i>William A. Utley</i>
Grape Hill Gardens, 1232 Devereaux Rd., Clyde, NY 14433	
Secretary .....	<i>Walter W. Oakes*</i>
Box 315, Rumford, Maine 04276	
Treasurer.....	<i>Walter E. Eickhorst</i>
140 West Douglas Ave., (2-C) Naperville, IL 60540	
Editor .....	<i>Robert B. Clark</i>
RD 1, Box 1344, Cattle Landing Road, Meredith, NH 03253 (Apr.-Nov.)	
27 Lake Wood Cir., Meadow Wood Farms, Ocala, Fla. 32675 (Dec.-Mar.)	

### Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)

Single or Family / Annual .....	\$ 15.00
Sustaining .....	30.00
Institution/Commercial .....	35.00
Life.....	150.00

*\*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary*

*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.

**Published April, 1992**



## The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

**C**overing 265 acres, the Arnold Arboretum displays North America's premier collection of hardy trees, shrubs, and vines. The grounds were planted and designed by the Arboretum's first director, C. S. Sargent, and Frederick Law Olmsted, the founder of American landscape architecture. The Arboretum, started in 1872 and named for its benefactor, James Arnold, remains one of the best preserved of Olmsted's landscapes.

Among the 7000 kinds of woody plants cultivated in the collections, familiar American plants are displayed for easy comparison with their European and Asiatic relatives. As far as possible, the trees are grouped according to genus and evolutionary sequence along the main drive. Each plant is labeled with its scientific and common name, its country of origin, and an accession number that links the plant to its permanent, computer-stored records.

A National Historic Landmark and an international center for scientific research and international center for scientific research and education, the Arnold Arboretum offers extensive public education courses, guided tours, publications, a bookshop, and a membership program. In addition to the plantings, the Arboretum's collections include herbaria and libraries, which are housed in the Hunnewell Visitor Center and in the Harvard University Herbaria in Cambridge.

The Arboretum's *Lilac Collection*, containing over 450 different varieties, is the second largest lilac collection in the U.S. It has been a favorite mid-May attraction for visitors since it was first established in 1900. A renovation of the collection, begun in 1987, instituted the replanting of the lilacs in thematic beds, with underplantings of ground covers and flowering bulbs.

|||||

# *International Lilac Society Convention*

May 14, 15, 16 -- 1992

---

## **PROGRAM**

---

### **THURSDAY, MAY 14:**

- 5:00-7:00 p.m. . . . . REGISTRATION, Days Inn, Lexington, MA  
Dinner on your own in local area
- 7:00 p.m. . . . . BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, Days Inn
- 8:00 p.m. . . . . Hospitality Suite Available

### **FRIDAY, MAY 15:**

- 6:30-8:00 a.m. . . . . Complimentary continental breakfast, Days Inn
- 8:00 a.m. . . . . Buses depart for the Alfred L. Frechette Conference Center,  
Jamaica Plain, MA
- 9:00 a.m. . . . . Registration
- 9:15 a.m. . . . . Welcome
- 9:30 a.m. . . . . Guest Speakers
- Roger Coggeshall, Nursery Consultant  
"Commercial Propagation of Lilacs"
- Arcady R. Mushegian, PhD., "Identification of Virus  
Diseases in Lilacs — Moscow University Botanical Garden"
- Thomas Wirth, Landscape Architect  
"Lilacs in the Landscape"
- Alfred J. Fordham, Plant Propagator,  
Retired, Arnold Arboretum  
"Lilac Propagation"

#### **ANNUAL MEETING**

- 12:30 p.m. . . . . Buses depart Alfred L. Frechette Conference Center for  
Arnold Arboretum
- 12:45 p.m. . . . . Box Lunch Picnic, Dana Greenhouse, Arnold Arboretum
- 1:15 p.m. . . . . Self-Guided Tour of the Arnold Arboretum Lilac Collection,  
and optional bus tour of the Arnold Arboretum Grounds
- 3:30 p.m. . . . . Buses depart Dana Greenhouse for Days Inn, Lexington

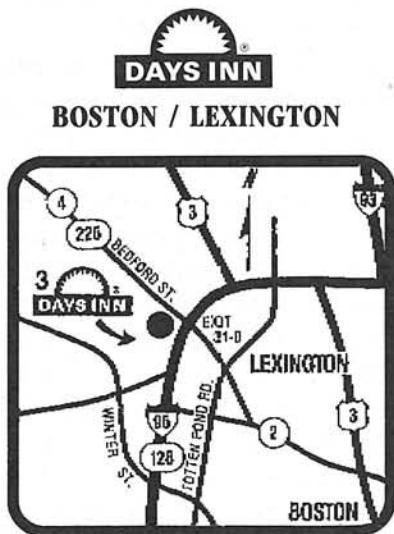
# PROGRAM *continued*

## FRIDAY *continued*

- 6:30 p.m. . . . . Buses depart Days Inn, Lexington for President's Dinner at Minuteman Vocational Technical School, Lexington, MA
- 6:45 p.m. . . . . Reception and Display of student work
- 7:30 p.m. . . . . President's Dinner
- 8:30 p.m. . . . . After dinner speaker: Gary Koller ✓  
Senior Horticulturist, Arnold Arboretum  
"Restoration and Renovation of The Arnold Arboretum Lilac Collection"
- 9:15 p.m. . . . . Buses depart for Days Inn, Lexington
- 9:45 p.m. . . . . Hospitality suite open at Days Inn

## SATURDAY, MAY 16:

- 6:30-8:00 a.m. . . . . Complimentary Continental Breakfast, Days Inn
- 8:30 a.m. . . . . Buses leave Days Inn  
Tour of Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA ✓  
Tour of Longfellow House, Cambridge, MA ✓
- 11:30 a.m. . . . . Buses depart for  
Dana Greenhouse,  
Arnold Arboretum
- 12:15 p.m. . . . . Box Lunch,  
Dana Greenhouse
- 1:30 p.m. . . . . LILAC AUCTION,  
Dana Greenhouse
- 4:00 p.m. . . . . Buses depart  
Dana Greenhouse for  
Days Inn, Lexington
- 6:30 p.m. . . . . Buses depart  
Days Inn for  
Awards Banquet,  
Location to be announced



440 Bedford Street  
Lexington, Massachusetts 02173  
(617) 861-0850

## SUNDAY, MAY 17:

LILAC SUNDAY,  
ARNOLD ARBORETUM

# The Quest for the Perfect Lilac\*

By John H. Alexander III

Plant Propagator

**I**N 1926, shortly after the death of C.S. Sargent, first Director of the Arnold Arboretum, the entire lilac collection was cut to the ground in an effort to rejuvenate it. With few blossoms expected for the spring of 1927, Lilac Sunday was cancelled, news that made headlines in the Boston papers. It is difficult to estimate how many people visit the Arboretum on any Lilac Sunday, but record attendance may have been achieved in 1941, when on May 18 an estimated 43,000 people visited.

This amount of public attention inspires the staff to pay close attention to maintenance levels of the lilac collection, and a burst of labeling, pruning and priming takes place every year just before Lilac Sunday. Any changes that are made to the lilac collection are noted and commented on by just about everyone.

Recently it became evident that an overall decline of the collection had taken place over the last fifteen to twenty years. Although the exact cause of the decline was not obvious, a number of factors contributed to it.

(1) The infection of the collection by mycoplasma-like organisms (MLO). These tiny creatures have been found to inhabit the tissues of many of the Arboretum's specimens and have seriously weakened them. While the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, displays no visible symptoms, other species often exhibit witches'-broom formations when infected by MLO. Unfortunately there is no known cure for this disease. Removal of infected plants seems to be the only recourse.

(2) Air pollution has been implicated as the cause of another disease, leaf roll necrosis (LRN). When a plant is afflicted, leaf margins die, and leaves roll upward or downward, disfiguring the plant. Apparently caused by continuously high levels of atmospheric pollution, the symptoms are not obvious until late summer or early fall, about the same time that powdery mildew appears on the leaves. As in their reaction to powdery mildew, lilac cultivars vary in their susceptibility to air pollution injury.

(3) Powdery mildew infection is not a new problem for lilac growers, nor is it a problem about which all lilac enthusiasts have to worry. It is a fungus which grows on the surface of as well as inside the lilac leaves, feeding on the stored sugars. It thrives in humid coastal climates such as Boston, and is a pest that most experts suggest gardeners simply ignore. Lilacs are spring, and mildew is fall. It does very little damage to the plants since the leaves are close to dropping anyway. Even if the damage it does is

\*Reprinted from *Arnoldia*, Spring 1989 with author's permission.

negligible, powdery mildew is unsightly, and many gardeners would love to be able to control it. Given the fact that some cultivars are much more susceptible to powdery mildew than others, why not grow those with the best floral display and the least mildew? This is not a novel idea; surveys of lilac mildew have been conducted at least since the 1930s when I.H. Crowell surveyed the Arnold's collections and rated specimens for their susceptibility to mildew.

(4) in an attempt to improve maintenance by reducing the growth of weeds in the lilac collection, herbicides have been used. Major injury to the collection occurred about twenty years ago with applications of the then new herbicide Casoron<sup>®</sup>, and the plants were very slow to regain their vigor.

(5) Mechanical injury to lilacs often occurs when the grass is trimmed too close to the stems with a monofilament string trimmer or, more obviously, with a lawn mower. The lilac collection is located on a hillside, parts of which are quite steep, and even when machines are operated with great care, they occasionally slide sideways a few inches, or a few feet, bumping and abrading the older lilac stems and shearing the younger stems that staff members would have encouraged in order to rejuvenate older specimens.

(6) Aging, too, must be considered as a factor in the decline of the collection since more than 150 plants are beyond the age of 50, and 36 of them were planted before the turn of the century.

With all these factors contributing to the decline of the collection, the staff felt that the lilac display could be greatly improved simply by reducing the stresses. Coupled with cultural techniques, judicious selection of superior cultivars would yield a vastly improved lilac collection — lilacs for a new century.

### **Displaying the Collection**

The Arnold Arboretum, Highland Park (Rochester, New York), and the Royal Botanical Gardens (Hamilton, Ontario, Canada) have the major lilac collections of the Northeast. In each of these gardens, most of the lilacs are displayed as single specimens. Each plant is spaced some distance from its neighbors, and each plant is seen as a distinct entity. At both Highland Park and Royal Botanical Gardens, the soil immediately adjacent to the plant is cultivated, while at the Arnold, the turf is allowed to grow up to the stems. Both methods produce maintenance problems — proper lawn trimming and cultivating endanger the plants. Both types of planting also allow visitors to walk up close to the plants and enjoy their fragrance, but this results in compaction of the soil. Best serving the public, but not the plants, these types of displays are common to most public gardens.

The first deviation from standard public garden specimen planting that this author saw was at the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture, Niagara Falls, Ontario. There lilacs are planted in beds . . . and underplanted with ground covers and bulbs!

The Niagara Parks School had demonstrated a way to keep mowers and feet at bay: mowers could be run right to the edge of the ground cover, clearly defining the bed, making a neat appearance, and requiring only a minimum of effort. With a power mower, one circuit of a bed that contains ten or twenty plants is so much less exacting and less time-consuming, and at the same time is less hazardous for plants, than the traditional method. The Arnold staff agreed that this new approach to planting lilacs at the Arnold Arboretum should include planting in beds.

The design of these new beds was carried out by Gary Koller, Managing Horticulturist. We agreed that groups of each cultivar would be more appealing, from a landscape viewpoint, than single specimens. Beds have been kept narrow enough so that each cultivar grouping has at least one plant that is near an outside edge of the bed, close enough for visitors to study and sniff. Underplantings are of *Pachysandra terminalis* 'Green Carpet', *Dicentra spectabilis* (bleeding heart) and *Endymion hispanicus* (Spanish bluebell).

Initially we toyed with the idea of planting whole beds of white (or purple or blue) lilacs, each one different, thereby settling once for all which is the best cultivar of a given color. This concept, not visually interesting and a nightmare when it comes to maintaining the identity of individual cultivars, was rejected. The scheme finally chosen has, in large part, grouped the plants according to their origin. There is one bed for plants introduced by the famous French nursery family Lemoine. Another bed features the introductions of the Canadian hybridizer F.L. Skinner, and a third the plants produced by the Russian L.A. Kolesnikov. Examples of seedling variation within the species *Syringa patula* are planted together in one bed, and the "New England" bed features those cultivars that we consider best for this climate. Other themes are being planned for the future, since there are many more lilacs left to plant.

The next task was to select the specific cultivars for inclusion in these groups. For example, of the over 200 cultivars that the Lemoines introduced, which twenty or thirty are their best? The choices were not entirely subjective, although one could not call them scientific. What, after all, constitutes the best? These choices were left to the author, who for over ten years has annually surveyed the Arnold's lilac collection and recorded symptoms of powdery mildew and leaf roll necrosis. All of this data has



been entered into a computer through the efforts of Arboretum volunteer Dr. Richard W. Dwight.

Obviously, the best lilacs should not be disfigured by powdery mildew or leaf roll necrosis, but because most lilacs are susceptible to these problems, some level of infection must be tolerated — preferably at a level that is not too noticeable in the landscape.

Proper evaluation of lilacs cannot be done solely in the fall. Good foliage is desirable, but no one grows lilacs for their foliage display. In terms of flowers, are more blossoms better, or are bigger blossoms better? In a landscape display, the overall abundance of bloom is very important, but near pathways, large flowers and inflorescences may be most attractive. A good display combines plants with both attributes.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder . . . in the eye, and perhaps in the nose as well, for fragrance is a major component of lilac beauty. yet we have not felt that it was necessary to consider fragrance when choosing plants for the lilac beds because at lilac time, their fragrance so permeates the air that one is aware of their scent even at a distance. There are some cultivars (often those with white flowers) with little or no fragrance, while others are extraordinarily fragrant. Seeking out the latter is for many visitors a most important part of experiencing the collection. To check for fragrance I,



along with two volunteers who claimed to be very sensitive to fragrance, walked through the collection independently sniffing and rating the plants. We became more confident in the rating system when we came to the same cultivar in a different location and found that our ratings were the same or very nearly so.

To determine which lilacs were the best, it became necessary to define the perfect lilac. Once perfection was defined, deviations from and permutations of perfection could be examined more objectively. Still, the definition itself was subjective. For the sake of argument, let us propose that the perfect lilac should:

- be highly fragrant
- have flowers at eye (and nose) level — not too high for comfortable viewing
- have many inflorescences, displayed from top to bottom
- have new growth that doesn't obscure the flowers
- be resistant to mildew and leaf roll necrosis
- produce enough suckers to replace old or injured stems but no more

Ideally, for every flower color, every season of bloom, and every single or double form, a gardener should be able to find a perfect lilac to meet the requirements listed above. For the home garden, where available space may be more limited, one may wish to select cultivars with a high degree of fragrance and disease resistance, as well as ones that are visually attractive. A list of what I have observed to be, at present, the "best fifty" was provided on page 18 of the Winter '92 number 1 of *Lilacs*. I qualify this statement with "at present" because as better plants become known, the list will change.

Of course, the "perfect" lilac may exist only on these pages, yet as more beds are planted and better cultivars are added, the distance between reality and perfection is diminished.

### References

- Alexander, J.H. III. 1977. The uncommon lilacs — something old something new. *Arnoldia* 38(3): 65-81.
- Crowell, H.I. 1937. U.S.D.A. *Plant Disease Reporter* 21(8): 134-138.
- Walker, J.T., C.R. Hibben, and J.C. Allison. 1975. Cultivar ratings for susceptibility and resistance to the leaf roll-necrosis disorder of lilac. *Jour. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci.* 100(6): 627-631.

## Micropropagation at Arnold Arboretum

A section of the Dana Greenhouse's basement contains an antiseptic laboratory devoted to plant tissue culture, or micropropagation. The program director is Dr. John W. Einset, Harvard University's department of biology. Micropropagation is the modern technique of plant propagation because it yields clonal (ie, true-to-name) cultivars in large quantities at low production costs. Five distinct hormones which regulate plant development and growth are recognized: abscisic acid, auxin, cytokinin, ethylene, and gibberellin. Cytokinin makes plant tissue culture possible. Dr. Einset studied the kiwi, *Actinidia*, whose fruit is now in American markets, in order to determine the site of its chemical synthesis. He finds cytokinin in roots and shoots. Since the Arnold Arboretum has an extensive collection of exotic hardy plants, Dr. Einset has a wealth of plant material from which to carry on his cytokinin investigations.



## Pre-/Post-Convention Visiting

Lilac Society members and guests who plan to attend ILS's 21st annual meeting at the Arnold Arboretum, May 14-16, if traveling by car, will want to extend their trip by visiting notable lilac collections along the way. Herewith a listing of fifteen worthwhile stopovers. Carry a road map and it is a courtesy to notify your host(ess) of your expected arrival time or date. Most of the gardens are listed in the Winter 1992 issue of *Lilacs* membership directory. Use area code + 555-1212 for information and directions.

Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario  
Niagara Falls Park Commission, Ontario (2 gardens)  
Falconskeape Gardens, Medina, OH  
The Holden Arboretum, Mentor, OH  
Highland Botanical Park, Rochester, NY  
Grape Hill Gardens, Clyde, NY  
George Landis Arboretum, Esperance, NY  
Lenox (Mass) Garden Club (public park)  
Col. and Sally Schenker, Freedom, NH  
Beaver Hollow Campground, Rt. 16, Ossipee, NH  
Roger Luce, Ham, ME  
Bernard McLoughlin, S. Paris, ME  
Secretary W.W. Oakes, Dixville, ME  
Gertrude Hodgdon, Randolph Center, VT  
Dooryard Lilacs, Greensboro-Craftsbury, VT

## Wandering

Once I came upon a homestead where a cabin used to stand,  
Where there grew a purple lilac planted by a loving hand.  
The blossom's cloying fragrance filled the warm and sunny place,  
Where a child's ringing laughter used to be so commonplace.  
But now it's all deserted and the lilac stands alone,  
By a chimney cold with ashes, in a clearing all forlorn.  
Was the lilac once a symbol of another kind of way,  
That a woman used to live in a country far away?  
Are the echoes of the voices that the lilac used to hear,  
Still lingering in the stillness of this place of yesteryear?  
I took some of the blossoms of the lilac's sturdy tree,  
And placed them on a grave I found beneath a maple tree.  
I made a purple blanket of the lilacs on the mound,  
and bowed my head and left the place, and never made a sound.

-- Marjorie E. Holcombe





---

## *In Memoriam*

---

### **LOIS AMY DEVEREAUX UTLEY**

Lois Amy Devereaux Utley of Grape Hill Gardens died peacefully at home on February 23rd in her seventy-eighth year following a long illness. She was a founding member of ILS (see photograph on page 28 of the Winter '92 number of *Lilacs*). Lois served several terms on the Society's Board of Directors as well as first secretary to the board. She was a faithful member, although in recent years unable to participate actively in the Society's affairs. Her love of lilacs and devotion to the threefold objectives of ILS contributed greatly to the development of the Society during its first two decades.

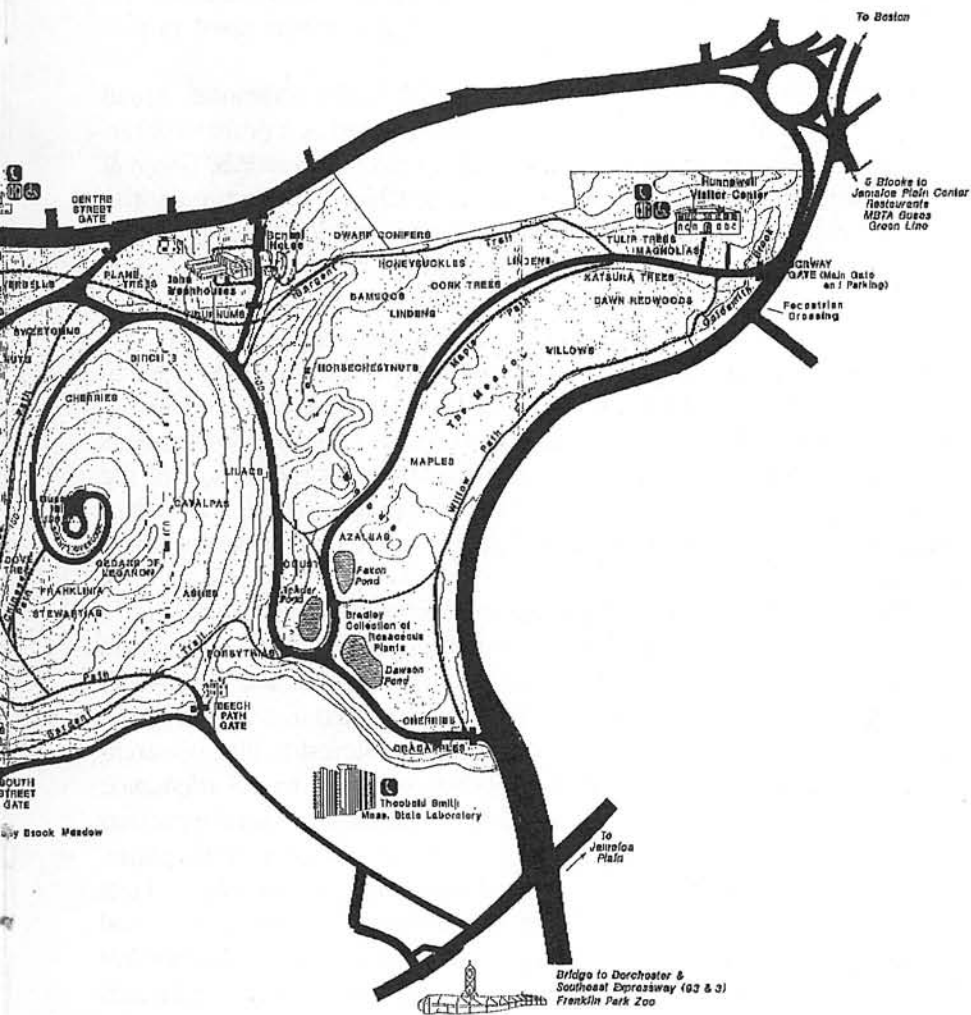
With husband Bill she spent these past years developing her family homestead into Grape Hill Gardens, an arboretum and nature study center for Wayne County and upstate New York on the Erie Canal. ILS members participated in its dedication when the Society's seventeenth annual meeting was held in Rochester in May 1988. Lilacs constitute the principal collection of Grape Hill Gardens and each May thousands of visitors flock to Clyde to enjoy their beauty and fragrance. The gardens are presently in rapid stages of development. Fortunately Bill is not alone on the farm. A daughter by choice, Wanda Whitaker, her son Noah and Timothy Comerford, a good friend and business associate, are with him to carry on the development of the Gardens.

ILS extends its sympathy to Acting President William A. Utley.





# ARBORETUM



# Request for Specimens of Cut-Leaved Lilacs

By Freek Vrugtman and James S. Pringle

Royal Botanical Gardens

Box 399, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3H8

THE cut-leaved lilacs present several taxonomic problems, some of which have been addressed in recent studies by Peter S. Green of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and by ourselves at the Royal Botanical Gardens, some of the latter studies being in collaboration with Bradley N. White and Joyce Marsolais of McMaster University. Questions related to these lilacs remain, however, to which it is hoped readers of *Lilacs* may assist in providing the answers.

Green (1989) divided *Syringa laciniata* Mill in the traditional, broad sense into *S. x laciniata* in the strict sense (interpreted as a probable interspecific hybrid of uncertain parentage) and *S. protolaciniata* P.S. Green & M.-C. Chang (interpreted as a species native to China). These two entities were contrasted in an illustration in Green's paper, which was reproduced on the back cover of *Lilacs* 18(4) (Autumn 1989), the sterile *S. x laciniata* in the strict sense, known only in cultivation, on the left, and the fertile taxon called *S. protolaciniata* on the right. *Syringa protolaciniata*, as circumscribed by Green, includes plants formerly cultivated under the name *S. afghanica* Schneid. In recent years it has been increasingly widely recognized that the name *S. afghanica* was not correctly applied to these plants (see Pringle 1979 for a review). From observations of the isotype of the name *S. afghanica* in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum, it is evident that this name was applied to a very different species, the leaves of which are not lobed.

There are still a number of gardens in which plants are cultivated as *S. afghanica*. It is widely assumed and probably correct that all such plants are actually the cut-leaved species now called *S. protolaciniata*, and that true *S. afghanica* is not in cultivation. Nevertheless, we should like to be certain. *Syringa afghanica*, if available, would be of great interest to lilac researchers and enthusiasts. Anyone having plants believed to be true *S. afghanica* rather than *S. protolaciniata* misidentified is encouraged to send a pressed specimen to either of us at the address given at the beginning of this paper.

As noted above, Green (1989) restricted the name *S. x laciniata* to plants believed to be of hybrid origin. Other authors (cited in Pringle 1979) had previously commented that the epithet *laciniata* (usually under *S. x persica*) had been applied to more than one entity. Sax (1930) observed that plants cultivated for many years at the Arnold Arboretum as "*Syringa persica laciniata*" had sterile pollen, whereas more recently introduced plants

derived from a wild population in China produced fertile pollen; and Hillier's *Manual of Trees and Shrubs*, ed. 2 (1974), for example, distinguished between "*S. x persica* 'Laciniata'" (= *S. laciniata* of horticulture, according to the *Manual*), sold at that time by Hillier's Nursery, and true *S. laciniata* (= *S. protolaciniata*). *Syringa protolaciniata* is now widely available, but the other entity, designated *S. x laciniata* in the strict sense by Green (1989) and described as sterile, is apparently no longer widely cultivated, even though it is said to have prevailed in European horticulture well into the twentieth century.

Taxonomists have a number of questions about *S. x laciniata* in the strict sense. Among these are: Is it really an interspecific hybrid? If so, what species were its parents? Is it completely sterile or only male-sterile? Before any of these questions can be addressed, however, one other question must be answered: Does it still exist? If anyone is growing a lilac believed to be true *S. x laciniata* in the strict sense of Green, rather than *S. protolaciniata*, we should very much appreciate pressed specimens representing such plants.

Pressed specimens for use in these studies should include both flowers (suitable for observation of pollen quality) and foliage.

#### Literature Cited

- Green, P.S. 1989. The laciniate-leaved lilacs. *Kew Mag.* 6:116-124, pl. 132.  
Pringle, J.S. 1979. Notes on confusing and recurrently misapplied names in *Syringa*. *Lilacs* 7(1):50-70.  
Sax, K. 1930. Chromosome number and behavior in the genus *Syringa*. *J. Arnold Arbor.* 11:7-14 + pl. 1.

---

---

## LILACDOM NEWS

---

---

### Highland Botanical Park Centenary

Lilactime at Rochester this May marks the 100th year since John Dunbar first planted one-hundred lilacs at Highland (Botanical) Park. To celebrate the occasion Superintendent Bob Hoepfl is arranging the planting of a commemorative lilac in honor of John Dunbar. Alexander D. Dunbar, John's only surviving son, will be guest of honor.

# LETTERS . . .

## To Charles Holetich

Dear Mr. Holetich:

I am the curator of lilac collection in this Botanical Garden since the retirement of Dr. Mironovich in 1987. My research interests are in the field of lilac diseases and improving lilac collections via tissue culture.

Recently I have compiled an index of lilac cultivars currently available in (former) USSR collections. Please find enclosed two copies of this manuscript. I would be most obliged if you consider it for publication in the Bulletin of ILS. I would like also to know about the procedure of application for the membership in ILS.

*Isolated by inoculation of various media: (Appropriate numbers 1-19 in order of seriousness or degree of damage caused on lilac plants or lilac collections in Moscow)*

1. *Alternaria alternata* (Fr.) Keissler — shoots, bark
2. *Rhizostonia* sp. — roots — looks like the first indication on this genus of lilacs
3. *Botrytis cinerea* Pers. — shoots
4. *Aspergillus niger* vanTiegh. — bark
5. *Cladosporium herbarum* (Pers.) LK — young shoots
6. *Acremonium* sp. — xylem
7. *Ovularia syringae* Berk. — shoots
8. *Penicillium* sp. — roots
9. *Thielaviopsis basicola* (Berk. et Br.) Ferr. — roots
10. *Fusarium* sp. — roots, bark close to the root neck (crown)
11. *Cephalosporium* (*Verticillium*) sp. — shoots
12. *Phytophthora syringae* Kleb. — shoots, leaves
13. Unidentified bacterium

*Observed as fruiting bodies on trunks:*

14. *Bjerkandera adusta* (Fr.) Karst
15. *Coriolus versicolor* Quel
16. *C. zonatus* (Fr.) Quel
17. *Fomes fomentarius* (Fr.) Fr
18. *Pleurotus ostreatus* (Fr.) Kumm
19. *Pholiota squarrosa* (Fr.) Kumm

/s/ Anna Pikaleva, M.Sc. (Botany)

---

## Book Review

---

Pownal, Vermont — Gardeners everywhere are rediscovering our floral heritage and rekindling their longtime love affair with old-fashioned plants. Easy, tolerant, robust, and enduring, these living heirlooms have been handed down from garden to garden, from generation to generation. Some hardy survivors have even thrived in neglected gardens, fields, and graveyards.

Heirloom plant researcher Jo Ann Gardner has written *The Heirloom Gardens*, to introduce readers to more than 300 of the best and most popular historic plants — ones that combine beauty, fragrance, ease of culture, and other qualities eagerly sought after by today's home gardeners.

The author defines "heirloom" broadly, to include flowers, herbs, shrubs, and vines introduced to North America between the years 1600 and 1950. Truly ancient native plants and the first floral "immigrants" to these shores are examined along with other old favorites developed by plant breeders from the late 19th century on. Their colorful common names conjure up memories of another time, when gardens were full of color, simplicity, and wonder: Sneezewort, Monkshood, Sweet Cicely, Lamb's-ears and Dame's-rocket, just to name a few.

*The Heirloom Gardens: Selecting & Growing Over 300 Old-Fashioned Ornamentals* offers priceless information on a wide variety of plants well-suited to North American gardens. Concise histories and descriptions, plus complete growing information, provide home gardeners with a practical guide for selecting and enjoying their favorite heirloom plants. "Collectors Choice" sections under each plant portrait list the best varieties. Tips on preserving endangered heirlooms and on creating unique period gardens are offered, too.

Every plant listed is currently available and each plant reference is keyed to an invaluable listing of mail-order sources and suppliers.

Jo Ann Gardner is the author of *The Old-Fashioned Fruit Garden*, and her articles have appeared in magazines including *Horticulture*, *Harrow-smith Country Life*, *Country Journal*, *Farmstead*, and *Herb Companion*. She lives on a working farm in Orangedale, Nova Scotia.

*The Heirloom Garden* is available postpaid for \$29.90 (hardcover) or \$18.90 (paperback) by calling 1-800-827-8673.



## 1992 Lilac Plant Source List

Prepared by Walter W. Oakes, Secretary

**T**HE listing of sources brings current our previous list. The providing of a list is a necessary function of the Society to best serve our members and the general public. We welcome any new information and your suggestions for improving the list so that it will provide the most useful information. The listing makes no distinction between suppliers who are our commercial members and those who are not, in the belief that users of the list are primarily interested in obtaining the lilacs.

**AMERI-HORT RESEARCH, INC.**, Box 1529, Medina, OH 44258

Primary source for 10 of Fr. John L. Fiala introductions, some of which may be available from other nurseries.

**CARLSON'S GARDENS**, Box 315-I.L.S., South Salem, NY 10590

Specializes in container-grown plants.

**GRAPE HILL GARDENS**, 1232 Devereaux Road, Clyde, NY 14433

A large and comprehensive collection. Many rare varieties not available elsewhere.

**HEARD GARDENS, LTD.**, 5355 Merle Hay Rd., Johnston, IA 50131

Catalog available from the Society at above address. Several species offered in addition to *s. vulgaris* and *s. hyacinthifloras* of particular value to gardeners in warm climates.

**LUCE, ROGER F.**, R.F.D. 1, Box 1126, Hampden, ME 04444

One of the largest private collections in New England. Many rare varieties. Specializes also in azaleas and magnolias hardy in Zone 4. A private estate.

**McLAUGHLIN, BERNARD W.**, 101 Main Street, South Paris, ME 04281

A private collection in a unique setting. A Maine treasure. A private estate.

**MARGARETTEN PARK**, 38570 N. Bouquet Canyon Road,

Leona Valley, CA 93550

A large collection including many of their own introductions not available elsewhere. Of special interest to those gardening in warmer climates.

**MELLINGER'S, INC.**, 2310 W. South Range, North Lima, OH 44452-9731

**PETERSON, MAX**, R.R. 1, Box 273, Ogallala, NE 69153

One of the largest private collections in the United States. Many

varieties rescued from near extinction. A private estate.

**THE LILAC FARM**, P.O. Box 52, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403

List available from Society from above address.

**WAYSIDE GARDENS**, Hodges, SC 29695-0001

Often offers varieties and species not available elsewhere.

**WEDGE NURSERY, INC.**, Route 2, Box 114, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Probably the largest supplier of lilacs at wholesale and retail in the United States. Many varieties not available elsewhere.

**WHITE'S FLOWER FARM**, Litchfield, CT 06759-0050

List includes a few choice species not available elsewhere.





## Growing Lilacs in the South

By Ellen Beard, Waverly, Alabama

“**W**HEN I first saw *Syringa laciniata* in flower with its wands of rich lilac coloured blossoms set off by delicate foliage,” wrote Peter S. Green, “I realized at once that here was, perhaps, the most attractive of all the lilacs, and have continued to admire it ever since.”

Our efforts to propagate the cutleaf lilac began with one plant derived by layering. With that success, and a great deal of useful information on size and time for taking cuttings from Alan Toogood's book, *Propagation*, we attempted a more commercial method. My husband Jeff built an 18x36 foot greenhouse in which he installed an automatic misting system. With this system we achieved approximately a 90 per cent success rate from semi-ripe cuttings.

Over the years we have accumulated several additional lilacs: Miss Kim (*S. patula*), although not generally recommended for warm climates, has proved satisfactory in the South. It is covered with fragrant pale lilac colored blooms and survives near drought conditions in late summer with no ill effects. If grown in partial shade, its blooms are nearly white. I recommend it highly.

Persian (*S. x persica*) is another excellent lilac for Southern gardens. Its fragrant blooms on graceful stems extend the lilac season and except for some mildew on old growth in extremely humid weather, which does no permanent harm, it thrives in this climate, either as a specimen or hedge plant.

Common Lilac (*S. vulgaris*) is an old standby in many Southern gardens. It blooms well about mid April and is often pruned to develop as a canopy over daylilies and sweet william in borders.

Lavender Lady (*S. x hyacinthiflora*) is a fairly recent addition in most Southern gardens. It is a beautiful plant with impressive foliage and excellent bloom. Other *S. x hyacinthiflora* recommended for warm climates include:

Serene — single pinkish lavender flowers — a strong grower.

Pink Spray — a rare pink with some blue in its color.

Summer Skies — magenta — a strong grower.

Maiden's Blush — clear medium pink which holds its color.

Walter Oakes believes *S. x hyacinthiflora* lilacs appear to be more tolerant of warm climates than *vulgaris* and new lilac growers might benefit from selecting them first rather than be disappointed by dilatory *vulgaris*

cultivars. Some lilacs which do not perform well in other warm climates do well in the South and I sometimes think soil condition has as much as to do as climate with growth and health if not bloom.

*S. x laciniata* and *S. x persica* may be used as hedges in the South. *S. x laciniata* is resistant to mildew. Either lilac may be pruned as severely as necessary to keep it in bounds. For a dense hedge, they may be planted as close as three feet apart. Liming and fertilizing should be increased accordingly. No debilitating disease or insect damage has occurred in the lilacs I grow. Proper drainage and adequate spacing encourage healthy growth.

To grow a lilac as a standard or tree form, choose a willowy young plant which has not been pruned to encourage shrub growth. Select the strongest trunk and remove all suckers or sprouts. Plant as suggested for all lilacs. When the plant reaches a height of 2 to 3 feet, remove the terminal bud to encourage a crown to form. Remove all sprouts and branches below two feet and prune crown to desired shape as it grows. *S. x laciniata* grows rapidly to 4 and 5 feet and is a good subject for this form. Another way to start a standard is with a sucker from a *S. vulgaris* or *S. x hyacinthiflora* plant. They appear to be excellent subjects.

Most lilacs in commerce are recommended for Zones 4-7 except the Cutleaf and Lavender Lady. Most of the South is in Zone 8. Many factors

|||||

*“We have accumulated several additional lilacs: Miss Kim (S. patula), although not generally recommended for warm climates, has proved satisfactory in the south.”*

|||||

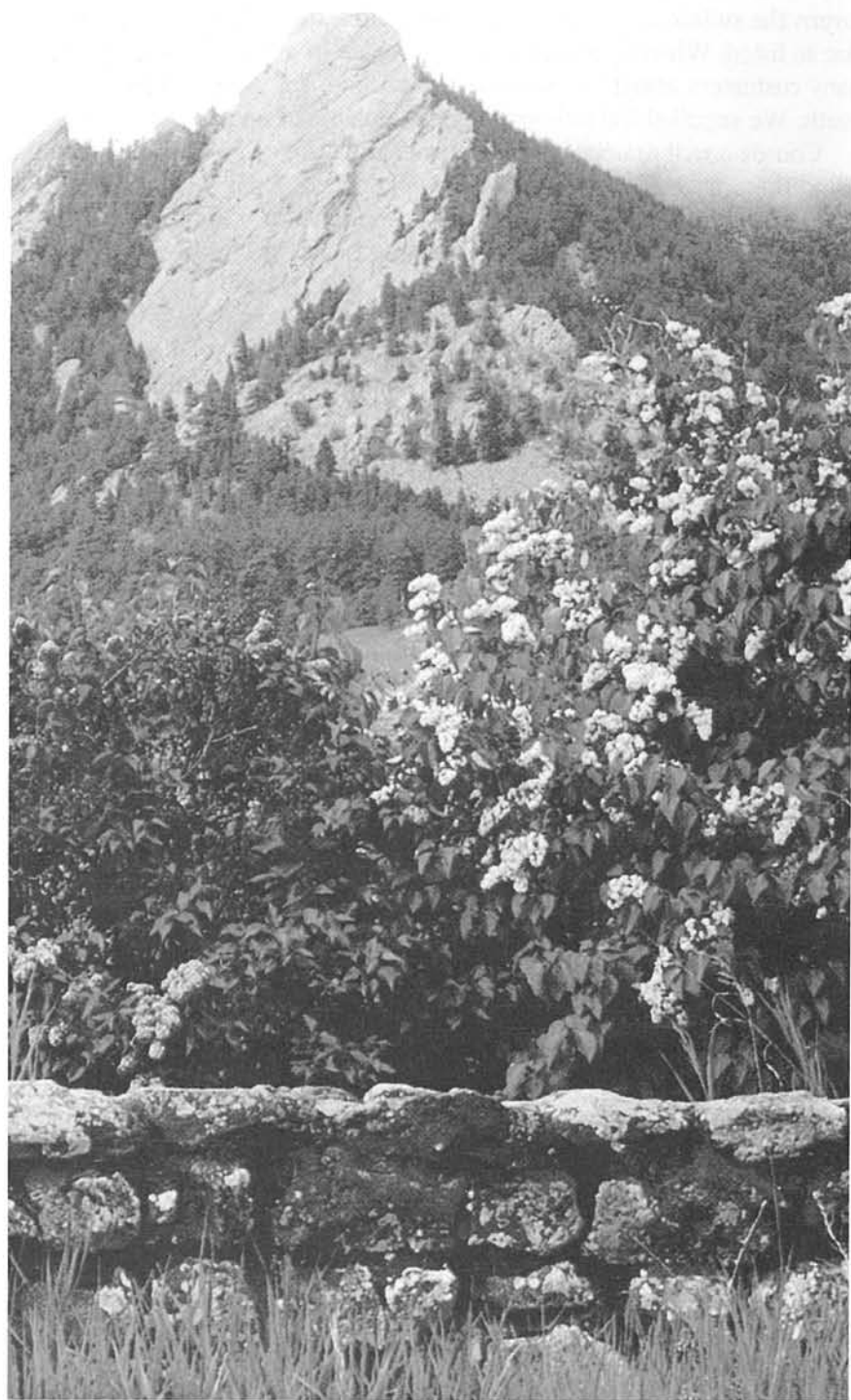
govern the suitability of a plant to a zone and I would not hesitate to try a lilac so listed. When Greene Hill Nursery began to market the cutleaf lilac, many customers asked for particular instructions for growing lilacs in the South. We supplied the following suggestions based on our experience.

Choose a well drained spot for your lilacs, a slope is an advantage, but failing that, make sure the soil is not waterlogged. A 16 square foot area (4'x4') is about the ideal size for a specimen lilac of any of these varieties. Prepare the hole into which the lilac is to be planted by removing the soil to a depth of about 12 inches with a diameter of about 6 inches larger than the container size or root size if purchased bare rooted. Both sandy and clay soils will be improved by conditioning the backfill soil. Add one cup of dolomitic lime, two gallons of well cured compost, humus, or dried manure to backfill soil and mix well. Return sufficient mixed soil to the hole to bring the lilac to the same level to which it previously grew. Place the lilac in the center of the excavated hole with the fullest side facing the viewer and tamp about three-fourths of the remaining backfill around the lilac gently, but firmly. Flood the planting hole with water to prevent air pockets and when settled, add remaining backfill to previous planting level.

If planted in the fall, sprinkle  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup superphosphate or an 8-24-24 fertilizer around the drip line of the lilac. In the Spring, apply 1 cup of lime over the entire area and apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup 8-8-8 fertilizer around the drip line of the plant. In early summer make another application of the fertilizer and lime. Repeat this each year.

Mulch is a definite advantage in helping reduce stress from summer heat. Pine bark is excellent for keeping moisture in, root systems cool, and weeds to a minimum. With garden soil maintained at a pH level from 6.2-7.2, a phosphorus level around 200, a potassium level of 80-90 and an occasional soaking in very dry weather, lilacs will live, flourish and provide their owners with spring charm and grace, and beautiful bouquets.

Possible sources of lilacs in the South — Greene Hill Nursery, in Waverly, AL, is a wholesale distributor of lilacs to Southern Garden Centers like: Pike Nurseries (Atlanta, GA), Hastings Inc. (Atlanta, GA), Town & Country (Watkinsville, GA), Barton's Nursery (Tuscaloosa, AL), The Garden Shop (Birmingham, AL), Green Thumb (Montgomery, AL). Lilacs are also available through mail order houses like: Wayside Gardens (1 Garden Lane, Hodges, SC 29695-0001), Hastings (PO Box 115535, Atlanta, GA 30310-8535), W. Atlee Burpee (300 Park Ave., Warminster, PA 18974).



## PEKING LILAC\*

By Kris R. Bachtell, Morton Arboretum

**U**NLIKE most lilacs, which are shrubs, Peking lilac (*Syringa pekinensis*) matures to become a tree of small to intermediate size. Although plants grown from seed usually have multiple stems, their growth form can be quite variable. Some specimens are rather arboreal with ascending branches, and ultimately reach a height of 30-40 feet. Others are more shrub-like, particularly when young, and mature to a height of only 15-20 feet. In the Morton Arboretum, both of these forms are represented in plants grown originally from seed collected in China. During the recent Arboretum-sponsored collecting trip to China, Peking lilac was observed and its seed collected in the north-central province of Shanxi.

The most striking feature of this plant is its attractive cherry-like bark. On young specimens, the mahogany-colored bark is shiny and has prominent pores called lenticels through which gases are exchanged between the atmosphere and the stem tissue. As the tree matures, the bark begins to peel horizontally to expose an inner layer that looks highly polished. This feature is even more striking during the winter months, when the bark is viewed against a clear blue winter sky or when snow rests upon the peeling layers. Interestingly, this characteristic is most prominent on specimens that take the more ascending form, and is entirely lacking on some shrubby specimens.

A rapid grower when young, Peking lilac integrates into the landscape quickly. Young specimens of Peking lilac often produce fewer flowers than those of the closely related Japanese tree lilac, *Syringa reticulata*. This characteristic is often thought to account for the lack of popularity of Peking lilac. However, older, less-vigorous specimens flower quite freely and are as showy as their Japanese relative. Near mid-June, approximately three weeks later than most other shrub lilac species, 4"-6"-long panicles of tiny cream-colored flowers are produced. These flowers are lightly fragrant and are attractive for more than two weeks.

The leaves are arranged opposite one another along the stem and are similar in shape to other lilacs, but are a bit smaller than most other commonly planted selections. The branchlets are also more finely textured. Bacterial blight and powdery mildew, disease problems often observed on lilacs in the midwest, have not been observed on Arboretum plants of Peking lilac. Autumn foliage is not particularly colorful. After the leaves have fallen, clusters of small buff-colored fruit become more obvious. The fruit, a capsule, begins to dry and open in early winter, casting two small, flattened seeds beneath the tree. These fruit clusters add additional interest to the

winter landscape and persist into early spring.

Despite its introduction into the United States in the late 1800s, the Peking lilac is still an uncommon plant in the Chicago-area landscape and nursery trade. Based on a recent survey of local nurseries, it is available from only a few that are known for their varied inventory. Care should be taken when purchasing a plant to select a specimen that possesses attractive bark. Currently, the Arboretum is testing a clonal selection in the Chicagoland Grows Plant Introduction Program. If production testing proves successful, this plant should be available to retail customers within four or five years.

Peking lilac has been growing at the Arboretum since 1922. It has proven fully hardy here (USDA Hardiness Zone 5A), although a few nurserymen in the northern Illinois area have experienced injury to young, field-grown plants during cold winters. Several home landscape situations are ideal for this tree, including patio, foundation, or border plantings. Select locations that allow the attractive bark to be viewed. Specimens trained to a single stem also have potential for use as street trees.

## SOIL AND SITE

Peking lilac is culturally similar to other lilacs, growing best in soils that are well drained. Most lilacs are intolerant to wet conditions and perform poorly in saturated soils. Observations recorded during the recent periods of low precipitation in the Chicago area suggest that this plant is more drought tolerant than Japanese tree lilac. Siting in full sun is important for best flower production and growth. During our recent trip to China this plant was noted to be among the first species to populate deforested low-elevation hills. In areas where overstory trees were reestablishing and beginning to cast shade, Peking lilac became less prominent, continuing to reproduce along road cuts and other highly disturbed areas.

## PLANTING AND CARE

Well-established young trees require initial pruning to develop a balanced branch structure. It is important to remove a few internal branches from near the base of the plant to provide space for growth of the remaining limbs. Periodically, water sprouts and crossing limbs also require removal. Properly sited specimens should be free of insects or diseases. Seedlings produced from Peking lilacs can be invasive and may require removal from nearby planting beds.

*\*Reprinted by permission from  
The Morton Arboretum Quarterly 27; No. 1 pp 10-12. Spring 1991.*

---

# INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

## STANDING COMMITTEES

---

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE

---

EXECUTIVE	BUDGET AND FISCAL	REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS
Executive VP . . . William A. Utley	Walter E. Eickhorst, Chm.	1. New England . . .
Membership	Walter W. Oakes	2. Atlantic . . . . . John Carvill
Sec'y . . . . . Walter Oakes	Trevor Cole	3. South . . . . . Robert Forsythe
Recording		4. Central . . . Charles Lamprecht
Sec'y . . . . . Sally Schenker		5. Plains . . . . . Max Peterson
Treasurer . . . Walter E. Eickhorst	<b>GIFTS AND ENDOWMENTS</b>	6. Northwest . . . Reva Ballreich
Editor . . . . . Robert B. Clark	Robert B. Clark, Chm.	7. California . . . Reva Ballreich
	Peter Ely	8. Great Basin . . . Merle Moore
		9. Southwest
		10. Canada East . . . F. Tortorici
		11. Canada West . . . Roger Vick
		12. Europe . . . Colin Chapman
		<b>AUDIT:</b> Don Wedge, Ch., W. Stampe, Dr. Owen M. Rogers

---

### II. CONVENTION

---

CONVENTION	CREDENTIALS	AUCTION
William A. Utley, Chm.	Walter W. Oakes, Chm.	John Carvill, Chairman
Dr. Louis C. Erickson	W.H. Martin, Co-Chm.	Marie Chaykowski
Robert Gilbert	Ellen Steward	Dan Cohen
	Charles Holetich	Walter Eickhorst
		Elsie Meile
		Pauline Fiala
		Max Peterson
		Col. Hanssen Schenker

---

### III. EDUCATIONAL

---

EDUCATION	RESEARCH	PUBLICATIONS
Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman	Dr. C. Hibben, Chairman	Dr. Owen M. Rogers, Chairman
Dr. Craig Hibben	Dr. Ed Hasselkus	Robert B. Clark
John H. Alexander III	Dr. Louis Erickson	Charles D. Holetich
Dr. Ed Hasselkus		

---

### IV. HONORS, HISTORY, LEGAL

---

HONORS AWARDS	LEGAL	ARCHIVES
Pauline Fiala, Chairman	William A. Utley, Chm.	Daniel K. Ryniec, Chairman
Dr. Joel Margaretten		Mabel Harkness
R.B. Clark		Orville Steward

---

### V. LILACS

---

REGISTRATION	DISTRIBUTION	SEED EXCHANGE
Freek Vrugtman, Registrar	William A. Utley, Chm.	William Heard, Chairman
	Charles Davis	Charles Holetich
<b>LILAC EVALUATION</b>	Robert Hoepfl	Max Peterson
Charles D. Holetich, Chairman	Dr. Joel Margaretten	Don Wedge
Robert Hoepfl    Walter W. Oakes	William Heard	

---

### VI. MEMBERSHIP

---

MEMBERSHIP	NOMINATIONS	ELECTIONS	PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS
Winfried Martin, Chm.	Orville Steward, Chm.	Pauline L. Fiala, Chm.	Dr. Joel Margaretten, Chm.
Walter W. Oakes	Robert S. Gilbert	Mollie Pesata	Reva Ballreich
William Horman	Peter Ely	Sally Schenker	Sabra Gilbert
		W. H. Martin	
		Plus Regional VPs	

---



*Aerial View Arnold Arboretum*