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Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

Rooting Seedlings

Russian Lilacs Part 4



Montreal Botanical Garden by Claire Foquet

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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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S. meyeri at the UVM Hort Farm by Kitty Werner



INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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ON THE FRONT

Fall seeds by Tatyana Polyakova

ON THE BACK

Lilac Fall foliage by Ideho Ihara

EDITOR'S DEADLINE

FOR WINTER 2022 ISSUE:
March 2022

[Please send photos *at least 300dpi*
+ articles]

President's Message

Dear Lilac Enthusiasts Around the World,



Wow, I can't believe that we have almost caught up with the 2021 journals. With that being said, this is the last one for 2021. The Winter 2022 journal is already in the works.

COVID-19 has affected all of us in many different ways. Let us not place judgment on others if you are not walking in their shoes but let us rise above and help each other grow! We all handle stressful times in much different ways. During the peak COVID-19 times in 2020, I took advantage of my unexpected two-and-a-half-month vacation from my dental practice. I spent almost every waking hour in my Wolcott Lilac Garden. The extra time allowed me to clear new sections of my garden and refresh the old ones. I weeded and mulched. In May 2020, I had one of the largest piles of brush in my tree lawn as the city has a brush cleanup service twice a year. I had the time to plan for the future expansion of the garden. I also had some work done in the 159-year-old house: I had two rooms rewired. I started stripping paint from the black walnut woodwork of the library. I would love to hear how you took advantage of your difficult time, and how you improved your life or the world around you, just drop me an email or letter.

Remember spring is around the corner. This means it is time to plan on attending our 50th annual Convention, to be held in Rochester, New York, USA. It starts May 12 and goes until May 14, 2022. Our Society's first convention was held in Rochester May 19-21, 1972. It is my understanding that many of the cultivars in Highland Park were acquired from historical nurseries and arboreta, including Victor Lemoine et Fils, Spathe Nursery in Germany, and the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. Highland Park also inspired renowned hybridizers, whose names you will recognize (John Dunbar, Richard Fenicchia, Alvan R. Grant, and Robert Hoepfl) to contribute their

unique varieties to the collection, as well. Portions of the park were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted.

Rochester has many other attractions. One is the Rochester Public Market Flower City Days. The vendors feature unique ornamentals and vegetable plants, plus hanging baskets, perennials, succulents and shrubs, including lilacs. It is held each Sunday in May, from 8 am to 2 pm. Rochester boasts the historic homes of George Eastman, Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass. There is the Erie Canal located there. And for the adventure seekers, there are the Finger Lakes region, just waiting for your exploration. So, plan on coming to your Convention. I was in Rochester last year and the lilacs in Highland Park are a must see and a must smell! And do not forget about the lilac auction; there will be some first-time offerings of lilacs. Bring your large vehicle!

See you soon in Rochester,
Dr. Robert A Zavodny



Photo by M. DeBard, Highland Park, Rochester NY, USA

Convention Corner Calendar—Reminder

Join us on May 12-14, 2022 in Rochester, New York USA

The first ILS convention was in Rochester, New York in May 1972 and this year we will be celebrating the group's 50th convention. Our hotel is reserved and many of our members are anxious to gather in person once again. If you are a member in New York and would like to volunteer in any way, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. ILS especially encourages any member in the Rochester area to volunteer their time and expertise.

The convention is May 12 through May 14, 2022. Our first event will be Thursday evening at 6:00 pm. Board members will have their meeting earlier in the day at 1:00 pm. Hotel information and agenda were in the previous issue, Summer 2022.1. Watch for information coming from the ILS Robin, Website or Facebook page.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Country _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Name(s) as you would like on Name Tag: _____

Please note special dietary needs: _____

Registration Fee: \$250.00 US

AFTER March 31, Registration Fee: \$290.00

Or

Youth Fee: \$200.00 US

AFTER March 31, Youth Fee: \$250.00

NO registrations will be accepted after April 30, 2022.

Registration includes: Thursday lectures & Hospitality Room; Friday & Sat
tours, transportation & lunches; Awards and President's banquets.

Make checks payable to: International Lilac Society (ILS)

SEND REGISTRATION FEES TO:

John Bentley, Treasurer

P. O. Box 6, Salisbury, NH 03268, USA

603-783-6779. treasurer@internationalilacsociety.org.

NOTE: Payment by check preferred but Visa/MasterCard credit cards
accepted

Credit Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Cancellation Penalty: No refunds after April 1, 2022

**2020 ILS Board of Directors Meeting
Including Committee Reports
(2019-2020 members)
May 30, 2020**

Held virtually due to COVID-19, worldwide pandemic and many “stay at home” orders.

Meeting hosted by President Robert Zavodny from Ohio.

Meeting recorder: Bradley Bittorf, Executive Vice President

Attendance: Dr. Robert Zavodny (President), David Gressley*, Bradley Bittorf (Executive Vice President), Tim McCauley*, Nicole Jordan*, Bruce Peart*, Claire Fouquet*, Tom Gober (Editor), Dr. Mark DeBard*, Karen McCauley (Treasurer), Kelly Applegate (arrived after initial quorum call)*, Dr. Mark DeBard*, Jack Alexander III*, Brian Morley (candidate for Board of Directors), Josh Miller (Lilac Preservation Committee)

* Member of Board of Directors

President Zavodny called the meeting to order at 12:23PM Eastern Daylight Time. A quorum of at least four board members was established, per requirements in the ILS By-Laws.

Review of Board meeting minutes from Iowa, May 2019. Nicole Jordan / Claire Fouquet made a motion to approve the 2019 board meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Officer and Committee Reports: Summaries of Reports provided by each person.

President's report, Dr. Robert Zavodny:

We still need a membership secretary; Tom Gober and Karen McCauley are sharing that responsibility right now. Myrna Walberg has resigned her roles due to health concerns. Do we need regional vice presidents? With fast communication through phone and email, we may not need regional VP's. Tom pointed out that Tatyana Polyakova in Russia is valuable in helping with members from Russia. Dr. Mark DeBard said that regional vice presidents are specified in the By-Laws and a change would require a change to them, but later researched the wording and found that neither the By-Laws nor the

Duties for Officers specify how many Regional Vice Presidents there are. Karen suggested a few regions worldwide could be supported by fewer regional VPs. Regional VP's do not have votes at the board meeting. Further discussion about which regionals should be represented. Karen suggested we have a generic email address for the US Regional VP. David Gressley volunteered to be the US Regional VP. Brad said it is easy to set up regional VP email aliases, and he can do so.

The regional VPs will be:

- US - David Gressley
- Canada – Claire Fouquet
- Europe – Elke Haase
- Russia and Asia – Tatyana Poliakova

Executive Vice President, Bradley Bittorf

Online voting still works and expressed his thanks to Candace Wentz for her help. The Lilac Robin continues to operate. It is a Google tool. Google is no longer supporting on-line access to the content of its discussion group, but it continues to work by delivering messages to members by email, which is the way most members have used the Robin.

Treasurer, Karen McCauley

The Treasurer report was provided to Board members already (see in this journal). ILS is saving some postage with the new method of doing journal printing. Remember to send in expenses within 180 days to receive reimbursement per our by-laws. ILS made about \$1,100 on last year's convention. Some people have requested E-membership (only electronic journals— not paper). Tom Gober said that electronic journals are easy to produce—but there could be some logistics needed. Karen made a motion that we add an e-membership for \$25 annually. Brian added that is a good idea for new members. Tom added that Tatyana has also requested electronic copies for Russian members so they can translate it, but they may also like the paper article. Claire and Tim said we should send the electronic copy to all members, and if they want paper, they get both, although the cost for paper would be higher. Claire seconded the motion. Tom added that if we print fewer copies, the per-copy price

might go up. Tom said we recently ran out of copies of a prior journal because we had a number of new members, and he asked the price to print ten. They would cost \$30 each at that low volume. The Board postponed a decision on an electronic-only journal until a future meeting so that more research can be done on any possible consequences.

Editor, Tom Gober

Tom reported he had created a separate ILS directory. Several people said they liked the separate members directory. The next journal will be slightly delayed. Tom nearly ran out of lilac booklets to send to new members but Jack has many more that he can provide to Tom.

Awards, Bob Zavodny for Myrna Walberg

No nominations for awards were received this year, so none are going out this year.

Preservation Committee, Robert Zavodny and Josh Miller

Tatyana produced a preservation committee report for Russia. Josh Miller handles the North American element of the preservation committee, but Tatyana covered elements of both in her report. Josh said the work was done at a high level and the committee has added 16 new collections to the inventory. Some collections have Berdeen lilacs. Now a challenge is to determine which ones are of good merit so they can be preserved. Josh reviewed all the lilac mentions in past journals to determine lilacs highly noted, as well as lilacs noted as getting awards of merit in the Register. He has asked Tatyana to examine this from a Russian point of view. The committee is also trying to determine if there are lilacs that we should try to graft or get scions from. Josh would like to have a budget or stipend for the preservation committee for expenses. Brian Morley said that trying to find a nursery to do custom grafting would be difficult and we might need to rely more on individuals to do grafting. Josh is working with Ted Hildebrandt at Cold Water Nursery. Josh did 10 successful grafts using his own resources. He would like to donate these if he has more success. Josh does not know if the nursery would donate rootstock and other materials. He will have to ask to get more details before he can make a full proposal. David said this could be a chance to make revenue for ILS, and we would know where the plants go and could

track them. Brian said he is now working with micro propagation. Knight Hollow Nursery does high volumes but has a minimum volume. Some places have minimums of 5000 or 1000. Josh would like to have some of the lilac suckers which were procured from Rochester Highland Park donated to ILS for the auction next year at the convention in New York. (Highland Park staff removes suckers with weed whackers unless instructed to do otherwise.) Kelly Applegate added that we should have some criteria for determining what is rare and whether it is in a public or private collection. Karen reminded us that ILS should be confident to have a true-to-name plant before you do grafting, if possible. Josh is willing to develop a proposal for next year. He will talk to Deb or Liz McCown.

Research Committee, Karen McCauley for Dr. Giles Waines

Giles could not attend but he told Karen he would like to solicit for another research proposal for about \$6000. This is a request for proposals related to lilacs. He got an application from Hope College in Michigan. Members of the board want more details about the proposal before they approve funding going forward. David Gressley said that mildew research related to DNA would be similar to what Dr. Donald Egoff at the US National Arboretum did 30 years ago. Claire and Nicole said that we need some details about the proposal—precisely how will our money be spent, and for what? We will ask Dr. Waines to get more details for consideration at a future board meeting. Brad commented that this is probably a proposal from Professor Jianhua Li who was once at Harvard.

Archives Committee, Dr. Jack Alexander

The archives have physically been moved to a more modern building at Harvard. These are almost exclusively paper items comprising over twenty boxes of paper. Claire asked if these could be digitized and kept in an on-line archive. Jack said this would be good but would be a lot of work. Karen said that some things from the archive have already been put online, but it would be a task to find the things that are not online and to scan them. Jack is working with another archive committee for another organization that is working to digitize materials. Jack said he would apply best practices from that activity to the ILS archival tasks. There is a “finding tool” which

comprises an index of the physical boxes. Mark added that there are many Registrar files that were passed along from Freek. Additionally, the Royal Botanical Gardens is going to be transferring other files to ILS people in Akron. Mark and Jack will look at the best way to save information. Dr. Zavodny is willing to house physical material if that would be helpful. Claire thought that not everybody should have access to the material. Action: Brad will look into Google Drive options for controlled-access electronic storage limited to prescribed ILS members. Jack believes we do have a legal agreement with Arnold Arboretum governing the policy for storage of archival materials. However, he does not have a copy of it.

Convention report, Karen McCauley

Rochester NY in 2021 is on hold due to the death of Bob Hoepfl. A hotel is booked but now we are not sure. Should we try to reschedule Saint-Georges, QC? Elke Haase will host a meeting in the future. Tentatively, future meetings will be:

- 2021—Rochester, New York, USA
- 2022—Kent, Ohio, USA
- 2023—Piccoplant location, Germany
- 2024--Saint-Georges, QC.

Future meetings: Brian asked if we were having more than one meeting this year because of the Zoom convenience, it is not decided yet. Bob said the Zoom subscription he bought was for a year so we can have more meetings if we want.

Estate Planning Reminder

Brian suggested we have an article in the journal to talk about estate planning and leaving money to the ILS. Claire will look into how to set up a formal estate planning program. Tom Gober said he might have documents that address it. David said a reminder about estate planning could be put on the inside front cover of the journal. Tim and Nicole said that some organizations accept memorial donations from people on behalf of others.

Facebook Group

Facebook, 600+ people on the group and there is a link to the membership page there.

Auctions and alternatives

There is a company that does virtual auctions online. Karen has about 25 lilacs to auction. She has offered to work with Bruce to conduct an on-line auction to benefit ILS. Brian also offered to contribute lilacs to the online auction, and Claire said she has over 100 plants owned by the ILS, but we cannot cross the border with those right now. Bruce said we are going to sell these virtually in Quebec but this would be a trial run of the virtual auction. Some of the lilacs that Claire has have rarely, if ever, been sold at auction. Mark said this was an idea with no drawbacks. Brian believes we might attract new members this way—some who might join just to participate in the auction. Nicole asked if this auction event would be posted on Facebook. Several people said yes. Bruce concluded that in principal, this is a “go.” It takes some time to coordinate the activity, but perhaps the sale will be in June for fall delivery. Auction descriptions should identify plant size and show the flower.

Web page, Mark DeBard

Some aspects of the web site are being managed reactively. Mark does things as problems arise. There will be an upcoming motion about web page management.

Youth report, Kelly Applegate

Kelly wants to make a customized “lilac crayon” set to go with a youth book. Karen said we are low on coloring books right now. Kelly said this is more about exposing youth to lilacs than about making money. Can we put in an activities page in the journal for activities for kids? Karen suggested, and Kelly agreed, that we could use the PDF from the coloring book as input to the editor for an activity page in the journal. Tom will work with his graphic designer to break it into individual pages on Facebook or another means.

Registrar, Dr. Mark DeBard

Four releases were done in the past year. We now have a sortable spreadsheet thanks to Claire Fouquet. There is also a Microsoft Word version with “track changes” turned on. Various contributors have helped with the translations and descriptions in other languages. (See separate report)

Election Results, Brad Bittorf for Candace Wentz (electronic voting) and Nancy Latimer (paper voting)

Brad announced the winners of the election for Board of Directors. He said these are the combined ballots totals for paper and electronic voting. The winners are Brian Morley, Kelly Applegate, Tatiana Polyakova, and Claire Fouquet. Congratulations to these Board members for 2020-2023.

Meeting adjourned by President Dr. Robert Zavodny at 2:23 PM EDT

Treasurer's Report 2020

Fiscal Year 4/1/19 - 3/31/20

KeyBank Checking Account Balance 4/1/20	\$ 13,723.74
Edward Jones Company Investments:	
Miami-Dade Cnty Aviation 4.25%	5,000.00
Tennessee Valley Auth Gbr Pwr 4.65%	20,000.00
JPMorgan Chase & Co 3%	5,000.00
Franklin Adj US Govt Secs .04%	29,374.01
Edward Jones cash balance	23.73
TOTAL	\$ 73,121.48

Special Accounts (Included in the above total)

Life Member/Endowment Fund	\$ 41,444.57
Plant Propagation Fund (Laurene Wishart)	2,241.15
Education & Research	0
Youth Program Fund	0
Total Funds in Special Accounts	\$ 43,685.72
Total Funds in General Accounts	\$ 29,435.76
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 73,121.48

Income

Membership Dues	\$ 6,136.82
Life Member Endowment	\$ 500.00
Contributions	\$ 975.00
Interest Income	1,365.87
Auction Income	4,260.00
Misc Income (Royalties, Lilac Bklt sales, Activity Books)	1,101.59
Convention Income (2019 Registration fees) & Quebec Refund	10,404.39
Total Income	\$ 24,743.67

Expenses

Journal	\$ 9,343.21
Postage	294.90
Bank Fees	411.87
Web site expenses	5,000.00
Insurance	402.50
2019 Convention Payments	7,087.00
Misc Expenses	296.95
Total Expenses	\$ 22,836.43

Net Income (Loss) **\$ 1,907.24**

Note: JPMorgan Chase bond replaces South Brow ard Municipal bond that was called in.

Montreal Botanical Garden by C. Fouquet



2020 ILS Registrar's Report

by Mark L. DeBard

The International Register & Checklist of Cultivar Names for the Genus Syringa ("The Register") is a worldwide lilac database of almost 3500 entries, with about 2400 known cultivars. Of these, over 1700 have established and accepted names (having been described in the literature) and over 1100 are registered with their name protected by The Register.¹ About 770 of these 1100 were presumed registered at The Register's beginnings in 1953. The ILS has a Photo and Color Database of 1490 different cultivars and taxons.

From May to April of this last year, there have been 4 major releases of the updated Register. New features instituted this past year include a spreadsheet version for sorting (Claire Fouquet's excellent project), and a Word file with "track changes" from the last edition (available on request). In addition, it has 8 appendices (A-I), covering Registration, Patents, Trademarks, Originators, Registered Names by Date, Syringa Taxonomy, Common Names, a Glossary of common botanical terms, and Flower and Bud Color information. Introductory Pages give the details of how The Register is arranged.

This past year extensive formatting and spelling changes have updated the look of the Register. Information on many cultivars has been updated, especially the Russian and Baltic ones through the cooperation of Olga Aladina, Tatyana Polyakova, Igor Semenov, and Natalia Savenko. Hideo Ihara has provided extensive assistance on new Japanese cultivars, and Tim Wood has helped with his new American lilac releases.

Many cultivars have been Registered and are waiting to be published. There is a new plan in place for the ISHS to release annual printed copies of new registrations for some ICRA's, including *Syringa*. I plan to submit about 40 new registrations for publication by them. This summer was to be the first edition, but the pandemic will no doubt delay this.

The Registrar welcomes any additions or corrections to The Register at any time from any authoritative source. It is indeed a work-in-progress and new knowledge results in frequent changes. If you have any suggestions for improving The Register or its Appendices, please contact the Registrar at

registrar@internationallilacsociety.org.

Russian Lilacs (part 4)

Dr. Olga Aladina and Tatiana Polyakova,
*Regional Vice-President for Russia and Asia of The
International Lilac Society*
[English translation by the authors and Mark L. DeBard, MD]



Tikhaya Obitel (Quiet Abode)

This is Part 4 of the article on new Russian lilacs. Part 1 included an introduction to the process, its history, and its breeders, including seven new cultivars. Parts 2 and 3 included ten new cultivars each, and Part 4 will introduce the last ten.

'Sergei Rakhmaninov'



(Elite form 11-112 x 'Rus'. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

Sergei Rakhmaninov was a wonderful Russian composer, virtuoso pianist and conductor of the late Romantic period. Round-ed light purple buds on elongated corolla tubes of this lilac open in large (3.7

cm), single, asymmetrical flowers. The petals are dark purple, velvety on the inside and pearlescent on the outside and at the edges. Light sharp tips are curved. In the shade and as they bloom, the petals turn blue with an iridescent effect. The panicles are up to 27 cm long, pyramidal, loose. Blooms in mid-season.

'Serebryanyi Vek' (The Silver Age)



(Seed from open pollination of elite form 11-94. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

“The Silver Age” is the heyday of Russian poetry and art at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries.

The buds are elongated, light purple, with a green tint. Flowers are large (3.2 cm), double, asymmetrical, with an open center, in decadent bluish-purple tones. The inside of the petals is lilac with blue, the outside is lighter. The petals are elongated, light tips are curved: pearls with an ashy-lilac aspect. The elongated blue tubes contrast with the silver back side of the petals. The panicle is exquisite, long (30 cm), narrow and breathy. Mid-season flowering.

'Sirenevoe Schast'e' (Lilac Happiness)



(Seed from open pollination of 'Mechta'. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V.)

This lilac with many five petal florets from the famous poem by E.G. Beke-tova, aunt of the famous Russian "Silver Age" poet Alexander Blok, put to music by S.V. Rakhmaninov.

Despite its simplicity, the

cultivar is unusual due to the abundance of five-petal flowers (more than 60%). Large flowers (3 cm), single, beautiful form. Inflorescences are large (25 cm), with changing pinkish-violet coloring. Mid-season flowering.

'Staraya Moskva' (Old Moscow)



('Cavour' x 'Monge'. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

The buds are rounded, purple-pink, flowers are single, large (3.3 cm). The petals are a beautiful regular shape, dark purple on the inside, velvety, while the outside is the same

shade as the buds, but with a light top that creates a shimmering effect. The flowers hold their color well, but as they bloom, they acquire a cool amethyst shade. The inflorescence consists of two medium cone-shaped panicles (22 cm), as if covered with a patina of time. It blooms brightly, openly. Mid-season flowering.

Tikhaya Obitel' (Quiet Abode)



(Seed from open pollination of elite form 8-304. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V.)

The buds are pink purple, slightly greenish. The flowers are single, large (2.6-2.9 cm), attractive, with prominent stamens. Petals are of a beautiful light blue color

with white tips and light raised edges. White lines are clearly visible on the inside of the corolla. The outer side of the corolla is lilac. The inflorescences consist of one pair of long panicles (28 cm) with thin long lateral branches. A late-flowering cultivar.

'Khose Marti' (José Marti)



(Seed from open pollination of elite form STK-56. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V.)

In 2015 Emilio Losada Garcia, the Special Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba to Russia, addressed the Russian Lilac Group with a request to

dedicate one of the new lilac cultivars to the national hero of Cuba, revolutionary, publicist and poet José Martí. We believe that this cultivar is worthy of the poet's name. The buds are dark, purple pink. Flowers are single, large (4 cm), wine-colored. Petals on the inside are of an even, bright, non-fading color, and on the outside is a lighter pinkish purple. But the tips of the rounded oval petals are slightly compressed and curved, creating a beautiful contrast with the petals and an unforgettable "southern" coloring. The inflorescence consists of two rather dense conical panicles. Late-flowering.

'Tsarskosel'skaya'



(Seed from open pollination of 'Pearl'. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

Tsarskoye Selo is a suburb of St. Petersburg, containing a former Russian residence of the imperial family and visiting

nobility. The buds of this lilac are purple. Flowers are double, large (2.5 cm), asymmetrical, with an open center. Rounded petals of heterogeneous color, the reverse side is pearly, the inside is lilac with a bluish tint, and the pearlsh tips and edges of petals are curved. The inflorescence consists of two rather loose pyramidal panicles (22 cm) with a rounded apex. Very soft, gentle and at the same time festive and elegant cultivar of mid-season flowering period.

'Chistaya Voda' (Pure Water)



(Elite form 12-94 x elite form 11-301. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

Bright green or purplish green buds on purple tubes make an exquisite contrast with

asymmetrical, large (2.8 cm), semi-double bluish flowers. The corollas are spaced apart, their opening is reduced, and the center is often closed. The pointed tips of the petals are slightly compressed and curved. The inside of the petals is lilac-blue, the outside is light with a pearly tint. The inflorescence consists of two pyramidal, dense, slightly drooping panicles 28 cm long. A memorable cultivar of a very late flowering period (mid-June).

'Shishkin Les' (Shishkin Forest, Fir Forest, Conifer Forest)



(Elite form 11-112 x 'Rus'. Aladin S.A., Aladina O.N., Polyakova T.V., Aladina A.S.)

On the ancient trade route from Moscow to Kaluga on the banks of Pakhra River, surrounded by fir and pine forests, is located the village of Shishkin Les, famous for the old manor of the Sheremetyev's and the cleanest drinking water extracted from deep wells. Very unusual cultivar. The buds are dark purple on long purple tubes. Flowers are single, beautiful, very large (up to 4 cm). The surface of the petals is uneven, with the inner side purple with

gray and lightly curved tips, and pink on the outside with the blue center of the corolla. The inflorescences consist of two to four not very dense panicles resembling fir cones. Mid-season flowering.

'El'brus'



(Seed from open pollination of 'Lebedushka'. Aladin S.A., Polyakova T.V., Aladina O.N.)

The buds are greenish, the flowers are single, glossy, large (up to 4 cm), with beautiful rounded petals. Inflorescences are formed from two or three pairs of very dense, compact, picture-like panicles, resembling snow caps on mountain peaks of the Caucasus. The bushes are slender and straight. Blooms in mid-season.

The Main Reasons for Failure When Rooting Cuttings of *Syringa vulgaris* Cultivars

Okuneva I.B., N.V., Tsitsin Main Botanical Garden of Russian Academy of Sciences, okuneva.irina@gmail.com
(English translation by Google Translate & Mark L. DeBard)

Summary: Rooting cuttings of lilacs is the most accepted traditional way of obtaining non-grafted plants. However, the result of cuttings depends on many factors. In practice, unsuccessful and unstable results of lilac cuttings are often closely associated with ignoring the factors affecting the rooting of cuttings. The influence of the propagation period of cuttings, the age of mother plants, cultivar characteristics and agrotechnical conditions on the success of cuttings of *Syringa vulgaris* cultivars is considered.

Keywords: lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, cultivars, rooting cuttings, propagation

The propagation of cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* L. by cuttings has been practiced with greater or lesser efficiency for more than a hundred years. In Russia, the results of the first experiments on lilac cuttings were published by V. Ya. Kesselring [1], stressing that the slightest non-observance of the described conditions may result in the death of the cuttings. In the Soviet period, the study of the propagation possibilities of lilacs by cuttings was carried out in the Main and other botanical gardens and introduction points of the USSR, and all researchers noted the dependence of the results of cuttings on many factors [2-5]. A significant part of the negative aspects was eliminated with the improvement of cultivation facilities for cuttings, but, nevertheless, difficulties remained.

The use of growth regulators to increase the rooting rate of summer lilac cuttings made it possible to increase the yield of rooted cuttings and improve the quality of the resulting root system and the viability of the obtained seedlings. However, the effectiveness also depends on many factors associated not only with the methods of processing cuttings (different substances, forms of their application,

concentration, duration of treatment, etc.), but also with the state of the cuttings themselves and mother plants, as well as with the conditions of rooting [5]. In practice, unsuccessful and unstable results of lilac cuttings are often closely associated with ignoring the factors affecting the rooting of cuttings.

Not all factors have the same strong influence on the result of cuttings. Small deviations from the optimal keeping conditions during the rooting period, as a rule, slightly reduce the yield of rooted cuttings, provided that the main requirements are met - young mother plants and suitable cuttings.

As for the timing in a broad sense, it is advisable to consider only summer cuttings as a method of propagation of lilacs (from actively growing or finished shoots of the current growth with leaves). (Fig. 1) Lignified [woody or hardwood] cuttings, the so-called "winter cuttings", taken from mother plants at rest, in the case of common lilac varieties, give unreliable and in most cases unsatisfactory results (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1-Standard cutting



Fig. 2-Shoots too ripe for rooting

The data of a few experiments on winter cuttings of lilacs indicate the possibility of rooting of species of the Series *Villosae* and some others, but not *S. vulgaris*, although some of its cultivars could be

rooted if the mother plants were up to 5 years old [6, 7]. Obviously, this method is poorly suited for mass reproduction, both due to the small number of shoots suitable for rooting, and due to the risk of mislabeling when using mother plants that are not yet flowering. However, sometimes, in the absence of other opportunities to propagate a valuable sample, an attempt to root lignified cuttings makes sense—in protected ground and, preferably, with subsoil heating.



Fig. 3- Good stage of flowering for cuttings



Fig. 4-Bottom cut

Even though the technology of summer cuttings is somewhat more complicated, its efficiency for many species is much higher than for winter ones. For lilacs, this is the most acceptable traditional way of obtaining self-rooted plants. The ability of *S. vulgaris* cultivars to propagate by cuttings can be generally characterized as average - a rooting rate of 30-50% is a good result. The same applies to the cultivars of *S. × hyacinthiflora* L. related to *S. vulgaris*, which we consider together in this context. For crops with a medium rooting ability of cuttings, as a rule, adherence to the timing of cuttings is important, and for lilacs this is also very important. All researchers of this issue recommend cutting lilacs during the flowering of the mother plants. (Fig. 3) However, during the flowering period, which can last up to three or more weeks, the degree of shoot ripening varies from initial to almost complete lignification.



Fig. 5-Shoots for semiripe cuttings



Fig. 6- Shoots for softwood cuttings

There are different opinions regarding the optimal shoot maturity for rooting. Actively growing green cuttings root successfully, but only under the condition of careful monitoring of their condition [4]. They are sensitive to both lack and excess of moisture, temperature and cleanliness, and require careful handling. In cultivation facilities without controlled environmental conditions, it is preferable to root cuttings from shoots in the initial or middle stage of lignification, which can tolerate a short-term decrease in humidity [2, 5, 7]. (Fig. 5, 6) They are also more convenient for taking and less vulnerable to handling prior to rooting, making them easier to transport. However, as the shoot wood matures, the ability to form roots in cuttings decreases. (Fig. 2)

In our experiments [8], the rooting rate of cuttings in the initial stage of lignification, taken at the beginning of flowering before the end of shoot growth, averaged 55.5%, while cuttings from shoots that had completed growth, taken at the end of flowering of the mother plants, rooted at a rate of only 18.6%. In the same experiments, in the first period, cuttings of only one cultivar from the 38 taken were not rooted, and in the second, 10 did not root. (Fig. 7)

It is interesting that the rooting rate of cuttings from actively growing shoots that emerged from dormant buds at the end of flowering

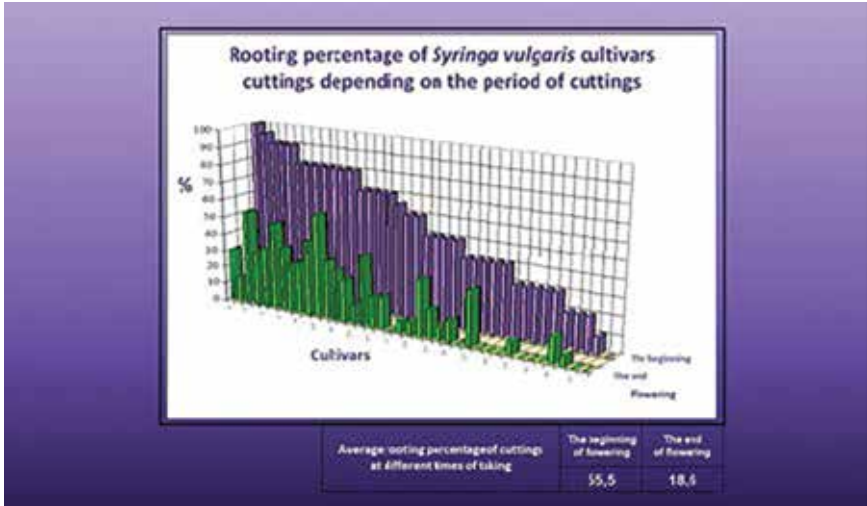


Fig. 7-Rooting percentage by flowering stage cutting time

was 54.3% — practically as much as in the first period in cuttings that have not yet completed growth. However, it is difficult to count on the systematic receipt of cuttings from dormant buds, awakened because of injury to the bushes, although it should not be neglected on occasion. (Fig. 8) For technical reasons, we could not start cuttings before flowering in the phase of active shoot growth, but it is quite possible that the result would have been even better. We never managed to root ripe cuttings with leaves. There is an observation of an insignificant short-term increase in the rooting rate of cuttings taken some time after the end of the flowering of mother plants, but no reliable signs were found to determine this moment.



Fig. 8-Shoots from dormant buds

Although the necessary stages of shoot development correspond to the lilac flowering phase, when determining the readiness for cuttings it is more reliable to focus primarily on their maturity, and not on the state of the plant as a whole. Moreover, it is a mistake to plan cuttings based only on calendar dates, without considering the weather conditions of the season.

The age of the mother plant affects the rooting rate of lilac cuttings even more noticeably. It is beyond doubt that it is better to use young bushes for cuttings. The degree of decline in rooting rate of cuttings with age is clearly demonstrated by our experiment, in which 202 cultivars of lilacs from the GBS collection were involved [8]. Cuttings were rooted from mother plants at the age of 10 years, and then from the same specimens at the age of 16 years. The average rooting rate for all cultivars at the age of ten was 51.2%, at the age of sixteen — only 9.8%. Moreover, in the first case, only 4 cultivars did not take root at all, while in the second case, almost half did not — 94 out of 202 cultivars. (Fig. 9)

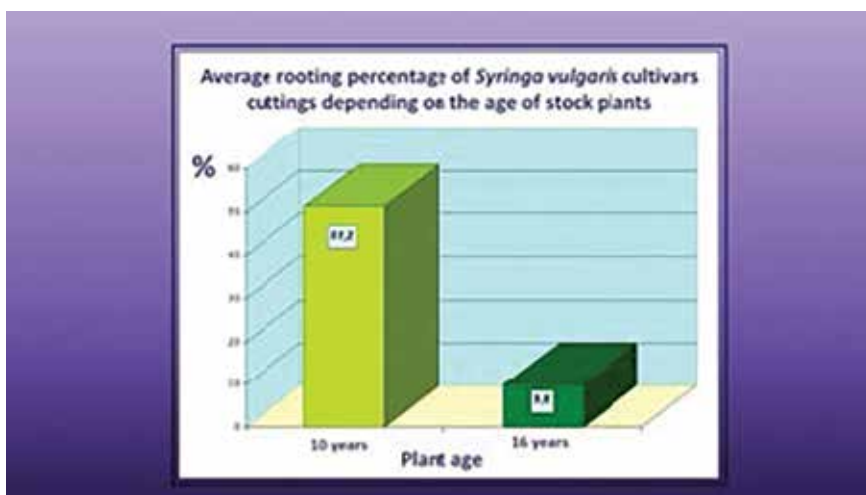


Fig. 9-Rooting percentage by comparative stock plant age

However, there were also some cultivars in which the rooting rate of cuttings, although decreased, remained at a satisfactory level of 30-50%. Cuttings of different cultivars also rooted differently in each of the variants of the experiment.

Another important aspect of lilac cuttings is the differences in the rooting rate of cuttings depending on cultivar characteristics. All researchers paid attention to this phenomenon [3, 7]. In our experiments, these differences were confirmed statistically [8]. However, it is not worth categorically asserting that there are cultivars that are easily rooted, or vice versa, that are not capable of rooting. The rooting rate is influenced by many factors and, most of all, by the age of

the mother plants. It is possible that the rate at which cuttings lose the ability to root is also due to the characteristics of the cultivar. It is very likely that, all other things being equal, the ratio in the rooting rate of cuttings of lilacs of individual cultivars will remain to some extent.

In a small experiment carried out by us with cuttings of four cultivars taken from fifteen-year-old bushes, and from annual seedlings obtained from the same mother plants by tissue culture, the rooting rate of the latter ranged from 80 to 100%, while the cuttings of adult plants practically did not take root. (only 3.3% in one of the cultivars) [8]. It is not known how cuttings from seedlings of the same age, obtained by traditional methods, would take root. It is not excluded that the regenerants (tissue culture seedlings) have an increased ability of root formation in cuttings due to the peculiarities of the technology of their production. It would be interesting to study the dynamics depending on age.

It is worth noting that by the age of fifteen, the lilac finally acquires the decorative effect characteristic of an adult bush, but it cannot be called old in any way. Nevertheless, already at this age, cuttings of many cultivars rooted unsatisfactorily, and difficult-to-root cultivars lose this ability even earlier — by the age of 10 years. (Fig. 10) There is evidence that cuttings of lilacs from bushes rejuvenated by pruning root better than from plants of the same age without pruning, but this can hardly solve the problem completely [5].

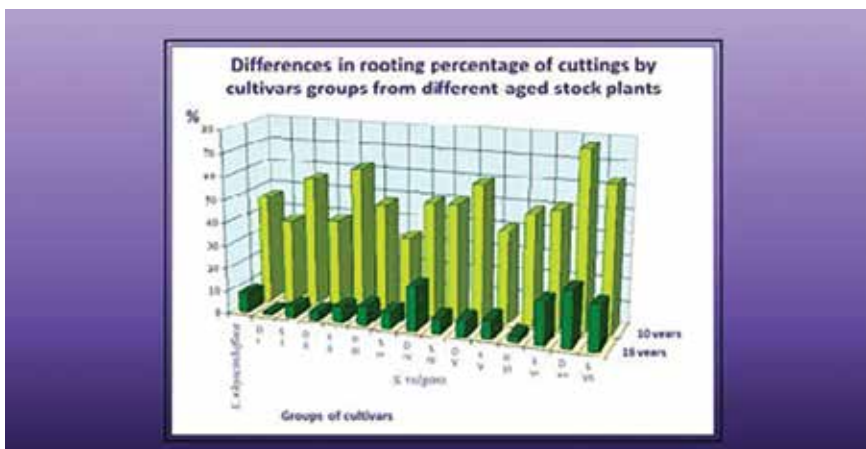


Fig. 10-Rooting percentage by different-aged stock plants

When using young mother plants and cuttings at the optimal time, the chances of getting a good yield of rooted cuttings of lilacs are great. It is possible to suffer complete failure only with very gross violations of the technology of cuttings. But since lilac cuttings take quite a long time to root, on average two months, special conditions must be maintained during this period to retain their viability. Ideally, these conditions are cultivation facilities with controlled environmental conditions or, at least, with automatic installations of artificial fog or fine spray. In such conditions, it is possible to preserve the photosynthesizing leaf surface of the cuttings as much as possible, which contributes to their rooting.

In simpler devices with manual irrigation, it is necessary to prune the leaves to reduce transpiration. However, the leaves should not be removed and shortened without the need - this is just a forced measure to prevent drying of the cuttings and rotting of the lower leaves if they come into contact with the substrate [2, 3]. Doing this for the sake of saving space in the greenhouse is beneficial only for easily rooted crops.

It is known that lilac cuttings are sensitive to the composition of the rooting substrate [2-4]. In our experiment [8], the average rooting rate of lilac cuttings of 26 cultivars turned out to be significantly higher by 15.2% in the variant with a substrate consisting of a mixture of sand and neutralized peat 1: 1 rather than in pure sand, which is probably due to better aeration conditions. and moisture in the rooting zone. Other materials, such as perlite, vermiculite, zeolite, also meet the requirements for the propagation substrate (good moisture capacity and air permeability, chemical inertness and biological purity). Fertile soil mixtures and organic materials, especially those with a high nitrogen content, are not suitable as substrates. Cuttings will need food only after they have developed roots. When filling the greenhouse, the nutrient soil is placed under a layer (5-7 cm) of a neutral substrate, the function of which is to keep the cuttings in the place of rooting, providing the root formation zone with moisture and air and preventing them from decay. (Fig. 11) It is also important to note that when rooting lilac cuttings, stagnation of water in the substrate is categorically unacceptable, therefore, its sur-

face must be carefully leveled, avoiding the formation of depressions. To prevent rotting of cuttings during their long stay in the substrate, it is also important to consider the location of the lower cut. It is made slightly obliquely directly under the node, where the densest and most active tissues are located. (Fig. 4) Our practice has shown some advantage of cuttings from the tops of the shoot with the preservation of the upper buds both in rooting and in the convenience of taking. If a whole shoot is divided into cuttings, the upper cut is also made straight closer to the buds. Long fragments of internodes, left both below and above the lilac stalk, are prone to decay.

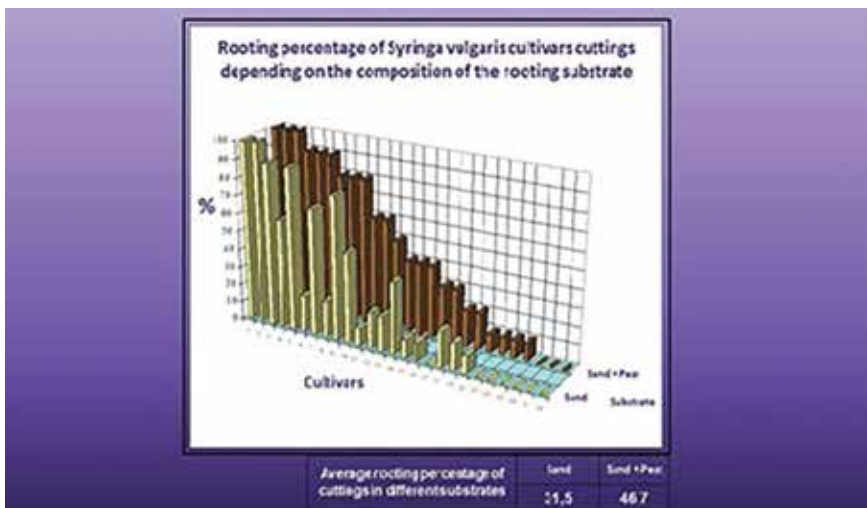


Fig. 11-Rooting Percentage by substrate

The effectiveness of the use of physiologically active substances to stimulate root formation in lilacs has been proven by many studies [4, 5]. We have also tested many different growth regulators, both known and new or experimental. However, in all our experiments, the best results were obtained using indolybutyric acid (IBA), which we even took as a "second control". It is noteworthy that the worst effect of all was the widespread heteroauxin (indoleacetic acid, IAA), which provoked rot in both cuttings and seedlings of lilac seeds [9].

Achieving a high rooting rate of cuttings is only the goal of the first stage of reproduction since the rooted cuttings still need to be preserved and grown. (Fig. 12) Unlike many crops traditionally propa-



Fig. 12-Rooted cuttings



Fig. 13-Rooted cuttings in the greenhouse

gated by cuttings, lilacs do not tolerate transplanting from the rooting site in the first season. To preserve the cuttings of lilacs as much as possible, it is advisable to transplant them for growing not earlier than the spring of next year, and even better to leave them in place of rooting until autumn. (Fig. 13)

In one of the studies [8], we compared the development of growth in lilac cuttings with different growing methods, and the best result was obtained exactly at the place of rooting. With the traditional method of growing on ridges of open ground, the indicators were lower, and when transplanted into containers, even growth inhibition was observed. It can be assumed that rooting cuttings directly in containers, although more laborious, in some cases is more promising as it is less traumatic for the cuttings. (Fig. 14)

Compliance with the above conditions for successful lilac cuttings is quite enough. Additional techniques for preparing cuttings for planting, such as splitting the lower end of the cuttings, cutting cuttings under water, ringing shoots, etiolating by reducing daylight hours to 10-12 hours, etc., described in some sources [2, 3], did not show practical significance. The most important factors, according to our research, are the age of the mother plants and the timing period of propagation by cuttings. Failures in attempts to root cuttings of lilacs are due most importantly to the use of adult and, moreover, old plants as mother plants. Another common reason for failure is missing favorable cutting dates — the more mature the shoots are used for cuttings, the lower the chances of their successful rooting. Carelessness in preparing the location for rooting and the cuttings

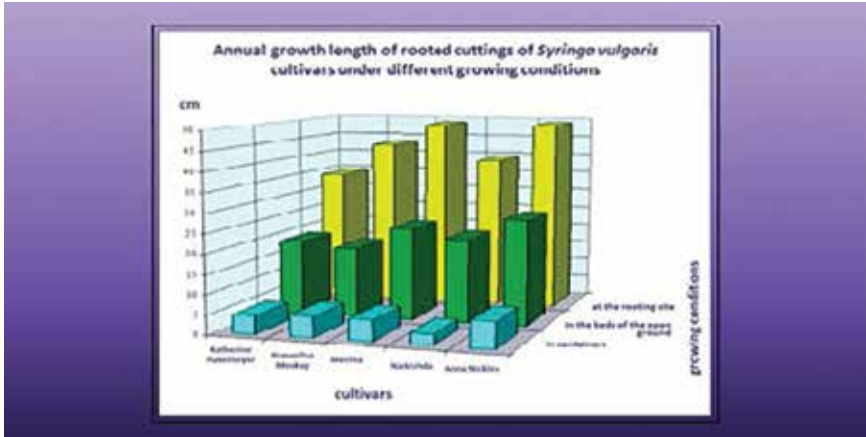


Fig. 14 - Rooted Cuttings growth by growing conditions

themselves, when keeping them up to the point of rooting, as well as unreasonable experiments can reduce the rooting rate of cuttings,



sometimes significantly. It is advisable to test new methods and substances only within the framework of an experiment, only then transferring the positive results to the practice of mass reproduction.

This work was carried out within the framework of the state assignment of the GBS RAS "Biological diversity of natural and cultural flora: fundamental and applied issues of study and conservation" (No. 18-118021490111-5).

Fig. 15 Irena Okuneva (author) demonstrating the taking of cuttings

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Everything Your Plant Hardiness Zone Can Tell You About Planning & Caring For Trees

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Original article can be found at <https://www.treetriage.com/tree-removal/plant-hardiness-zone-tell/>*

Are you wondering what a “plant hardiness zone” is and how it affects your trees? You’ve come to the right place! In this TreeTriage.com guide, we’ll cover:

- What a plant hardiness zone is,
- How knowing your plant hardiness zone affects your home,
- How to best care for your trees based on where you live.

Microclimates and Plant Survival

Will this tree grow well where I live? This is an important question when selecting a tree for a specific place. The University of Florida’s IFAS Extension supports this view by noting that “Trees adapted to the planting site are more likely to remain standing in hurricanes.” To determine whether a tree you want to plant will survive the climate you live in, you need to understand the concept of plant hardiness and plant hardiness zones, also known as planting zones. These ideas help us understand which trees can survive the climate of our region.

In this article, we define plant hardiness, plant hardiness zones, how to find microclimates, how climate change affects plant hardiness zones, and how to apply this knowledge to care for your trees.

What Is Plant Hardiness?

Plant hardiness is a plant’s ability to survive in adverse climatic conditions. The University of Vermont Extension’s Department of Plant and Soil Science notes that “Hardiness is genetic.” Adding, “That is why some plants are hardier than others, even why some cultivars are hardier than others of the same plant.”

Since some trees fail to survive in extreme temperatures, it’s beneficial for gardeners and farmers to know which ones will and won’t survive based on the plant hardiness zones.

A relatable example of plant hardiness would be the palm tree. Al-

though certain species of palm trees can withstand below freezing temperatures, these trees generally don't thrive in areas below 40°F.



Plant Hardiness Zone

The U.S. Forest Service defines plant hardiness zones as “the standard by which gardeners and growers can determine which plants are most likely to thrive at a location.”

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) determines plant hardiness zones. It also produces the map used to identify different zones.

Plant hardiness zones help growers in finding out which plants will grow and thrive in their specific zone. There are currently 11 North American hardiness zones, with a 10°F difference based on the average annual minimum winter temperature.

How Can I Find Areas With Microclimates?

While planting zones can help determine which trees to plant in a specific region, they are not absolute. One thing to remember is that you may be living in a microclimate within a specific plant hardiness zone. The Royal Meteorological Society describes a microclimate as “the distinctive climate of a small-scale area, such as a garden, park, valley or part of a city.

Microclimates can make for drastic plant hardiness changes in some situations. One reason why it helps to identify microclimates is for selective planting in certain areas. Understanding microclimates



helps take advantage of the growth potential in specific regions.

BBC.co.uk describes some factors you can take into account when identifying microclimates:

Landscape: The physical location and its characteristics. Variables of a landscape include elevation, longitude, and latitude, mountains, and prairies.

Relief: Includes landscape changes in height. For example, most south-facing slopes in the northern hemisphere will get more direct sunlight than the north-facing ones due to the location of the rising and setting sun.

Activities taking place: These could be human-caused or naturally occurring. Humans are talented at taking harsh landscapes and turning them into flourishing plant areas simply by building enclosures. Nature also causes temperature changes. Natural disasters and other less drastic changes like tidal patterns affect and define microclimates.

Effect of Climate Change on Plant Hardiness Zones

Like all other aspects of our lives, plant hardiness zones are affected by climate change. Because of changing temperatures, the plant hardiness map we see today isn't the same as the first plant hardiness map issued in 1960.

The map issued in 2003 places many areas a half-zone higher than previously displayed in the 1990 version. Climate.gov shows changes

in plant hardiness using animations that create a visual representation of how the hardiness map changed from 1990 to 2006.

Yale University's Yale Environment 360 states that the tropics are growing in size by about 30 miles per decade. The Tropic of Cancer in the Northern Hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere are the lines where the sun lies directly overhead on the December and June solstices.

Yale Environment 360 also states that:

- The Sahara desert is currently 10% bigger since 1920.
- The 100th meridian has shifted 140 miles east.
- Tornado Alley has shifted 500 miles east in just 30 years.
- The permafrost line in Canada moved 80 miles north in 50 years.
- The Wheatbelt in Australia is moving south at 160 miles per decade.

Yale estimates that the plant hardiness zones in the U.S. are moving north at about 13 miles per decade. So, what does it mean if your hardiness zone is a half-zone warmer today than previous years on the plant hardiness scale? In some cases, it means that the plants that may have been able to survive in your area a decade ago may struggle now.

However, the National Gardening Association points out that the half-zone change in the most recent hardiness map is partly due to the enhanced methods of measuring temperature, including algorithms based on a location's nearness to a body of water, elevation, position on the terrain, and more.

Taking Action To Reduce the Effects of Climate Change

According to the National Wildlife Federation, some states could risk losing their state trees and flowers to extinction due to climate change. The same organization also educates on ways we can reduce the effects of the changing climate:

Planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide: Trees produce oxygen that we need to survive and remove harmful carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is known to trap heat, which causes climate change.

Reducing water consumption: Water isn't always consumed responsibly. There are many ways we can reduce water consumption so that we reduce the proliferation of desertification.

Composting waste: Composting our organic waste keeps trash out of landfills and provides fertile soil for growing trees. More information about composting is available on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website.

Reduce the threat of invasive species: When plants and animals get introduced from another continent, there is a possibility that the natural vegetation could be adversely affected. For this reason, the U.S. Forest Service makes it a priority to prevent and control invasive species.



Diverse People Hands Hold Plants Nature

What Tools Can I Use To Monitor Planting Data?

We can collect information about the trees we plant by connecting sensors to them and the soil below.

Monitoring planting data is a modern-day commodity that needs to be taken advantage of, and various companies provide high-tech solutions. We can determine whether trees will thrive in a specific area using real-time monitoring of data and growing variables.

Below are some software tools available for monitoring planting data:

- **HortControl by Phenospex:** Offers a smart plant-analysis software that provides data visualization and experimental setup with control and monitoring to help growers track and study single plants or complete fields.
- **Climate FieldView:** This is a data-connectivity platform that's useful for monitoring planting data. With FieldView, you can monitor your crops in real time, upload historical data, and share critical information.
- **Bayer:** Provides tools with in-field sensors that measure the soil for nitrogen, phosphorous, water, and other organic matter.
- **Paskal Group:** Provides a wireless plant monitoring system called PhytoVision. The company says that using its tools, "Farmers are able to make data-informed decisions and more accurately provide direct support to their plants."

Applying Knowledge About Plant Hardiness Zones to Caring for Trees

If you're looking to successfully enhance or create an outdoor space with trees, the first step is identifying the tree species you want to plant—you can't determine whether a tree is fit for a specific zone if you don't know what type of tree it is.

Luckily, there are applications like PictureThis, PlantSnap, Nature-ID, and Seek by iNaturalist that help identify trees, plants, bugs, and anything else in nature. The process of identifying an unknown tree or plant is quite simple. You take a picture of the plant inside the app, and the program tells you the name.

Most apps also make it relatively simple to find out the plant's hardiness number; you just do a search using the name of the plant you're interested in, and you'll get the zones suitable for that plant. For example, if you search on most apps using the 'hardiness scale of Juniper,' you will know that the plant can survive in zones 3–9.

Photos for Your Journal



Your journal always needs beautiful photographs of lilacs to publish. We are looking for general lilac photos in the portrait orientation (taller) that can be used to illustrate the articles, seasons or themes. Horizontal (wider) photographs are used to fill in, or illustrate our stories. If you have those kinds of photographs, we would appreciate if you would share them with the editor by sending them to (editor@internationallilacsociety.org).

You must have taken the photographs yourself, they must be high resolution, *at least 300dpi*. Please include a description of the photos sent. If people are on the photos, you must have permission *from them in writing* to make the photos public. Credit will be given when your photographs are used. On this page are examples of the style of photo we need.



Thank you!



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Syringa vulgaris in the Fall
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