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# Lilacs

Quarterly Journal of the International Lilac Society

**Edible Lilacs**  
**Durability in a vase**



*S. vulgaris* 'Le Printemps'  
by Claire Fouquet

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International Lilac Society, c/o John Bentley,  
PO Box 6, Salisbury, NH 03268-0006

**INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY**

**President** Robert Zavodny  
590 Delaware Avenue, Akron, OH 44303  
president@internationallilacsociety.org  
(330) 329-2993

**Executive Vice President** Claire Fouquet  
137e Rue, Saint-Georges, QC G5Y 6V9 Canada  
execvp@internationallilacsociety.org

**Membership Secretary** Mark L. DeBard  
810 Bluffview Dr., Columbus OH 43235  
membership@internationallilacsociety.org

**Treasurer** John Bentley  
PO Box 6, Salisbury, NH 03268-0006  
treasurer@internationallilacsociety.org (603) 783-6779

**Editor** Tom Gober  
590 Delaware Avenue, Akron, OH 44303  
editor@internationallilacsociety.org (330) 503-8140

Membership Classification (U.S. Funds)  
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Published April 2022

*S. vulgaris* 'Étoile de Mai'  
by Claire Fouquet





# INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

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### EDITOR'S DEADLINE

FOR Summer 2022 ISSUE:  
May 31, 2022

[Please send photos at least 300dpi + articles]

## President's Message

### Dear Lilac Enthusiasts Around the World,



Welcome spring 2022! Last weekend I walked my lilac garden and spied early spring flowers in bloom: Snow Drops (*Galanthus*), Helleborus, and Glory in the Snow (Siberian Squill). These flowers are behind schedule. We experienced the start of winter in mid-January with two feet of snow, then another two feet a week and a half later. These amounts are unusual for us in northeast Ohio. A blast of cold air settled in after that and the snow stayed on the ground until March. My Snow Drops usually bloom the first week of February. The past few weeks we have been having temperatures ranging from 50–70 degrees Fahrenheit. The lilacs buds have started to swell and show early signs of flower buds. In a little over a month, they should be in their glory.

When the weather has been unpleasant to be in the garden, I have been working on shelves in my small greenhouses. I started several types of lettuce, plus spinach, arugula, and pansies. The summer plants will follow suit in a few more weeks. A few of my seedling lilacs, which are in the house for safe keeping, have leafed out. I have also updated my lilac list to purchase plant tags to properly label my collection. This is a large undertaking due to the size of my lilac collection, but it is a much-needed undertaking.

I have ordered most of the seeds from catalogues, and continue ordering plants to add to the garden. I received a record number of catalogues this year; such a temptation for me. I ordered two new lilacs already, and I am anxiously waiting to see what is available from my favorite growers.

When the weather permits, I am continuing the clean-up of my garden. I have been clearing leaves from the beds and from the shrubs. Pruning of the bushes to clear dead-wood and better shaping is also underway. After removing the opportunistic weeds, a new layer of mulch will dress the beds. I am still working

on redoing much of the garden to lessen the amount of work that will be needed to maintain this garden.

I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Freek Vrugtman. He was instrumental to the categorization of Syringa L., as our past Registrar. I was planning on going to meet him two years ago, but COVID-19 prevented that.

Hope to see everyone at the Convention in May. At this point, you should have or in the process of receiving the 'LILACS' Journal. We are all caught up. If you have not yet received your copy, you can also view the journals on the 'Members Only' side of the website. Have a great spring and enjoy the aroma of your lilacs. COVID restrictions are being lifted so I hope you can get out there and explore the gardens of the world. Make sure you get reacquainted with your family and friends. Spring is one of my favorite times of the year.

See you in Rochester,  
Dr. Robert Zavodny

## Freek Vrugtman 1927–2022



It is with great sorrow that we inform you that Freek passed away on March 3, 2022.

He was Registrar Emeritus, having served in this position for over 40 years.

Our next Lilacs issue will pay tribute to him. If you would like to share some of your moments with Freek, you can send an e-mail to the editor. Photos are also welcome.

# Lilac Registrar's Report 2022

By Mark L. DeBard

While the pandemic was ongoing in 2020 and 2021, the work of registering and checklisting new lilac cultivars and updating old information went on. I was assisted by the advice and help of Registrar Emeritus Freek Vrugtman and Assistant Registrars Claire Fouquet, David Gressley, and Tatyana Polyakova.

The public PDF version of the Register is updated about twice yearly and available on the ILS website at [www.internationallilacsociety.org](http://www.internationallilacsociety.org). A very helpful and sortable Excel version is maintained by Claire Fouquet as a member benefit and available in the members-only section of the ILS website.

On March 5, 2021, the first hardcover and softcover books of the Registry in 20 years were published. These are available anywhere books are sold, online and in bookstores.

An arrangement with the Royal Horticultural Society resulted in new lilac cultivar registrations being published in their *Cultivar Registration Bulletin*. Patented lilacs are accepted as registered since they fulfill the same requirements.

There were 93 new names added to the Registry. 24 breeders are represented, with the most cultivars by far (33) from the Russian Lilac group of Aladin S., Aladina O., Polyakova T., and Aladina A. Seven each were from Upitis and Dyagilev, 6 from Ihara, and 5 each from Sagitova/Dzevitski and Kravchenko. Ten countries are represented, with 46 from Russia, 13 from the USA, 9 from Latvia, 6 from Japan, 5 each from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, and 4 from Belarus.

There was a total of 26 new registrations. Here is a list of them with some pictures. All photos are from the ILS Photo & Color Database.



<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Breeder</b>
'75 Let GBS'	Russia	Molkanova
'Annys 2013-02'	Netherlands	van Nijnatten
'Annys 2013-18'	Netherlands	van Nijnatten
'Ede Upītis'	Latvia	Upītis
'Snegurochka'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Baryshnya-Kres'tyanka'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Dal'nevostochnitsa'	Russia	Pshennikova
'G13099'	USA	Grazzini
'G13103'	USA	Grazzini
'GARlisabzar'	USA	Detrick
'General Antonov'	Belarus	Makedonskaya
'Hanafubuki'	Japan	Ihara
'Irina Arkhipova'	Russia	Aladin et al
'JDB123whitehouse'	USA	Bakale Jr
'Jeftini'	USA	Durand J.R.
'Kabuki'	Japan	Ihara
'Leonid Leonov'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Marshal Chuikov'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Mikhail Glinka'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Nikolaï Rubtsov'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Pamyati Mikhaïlova'	Russia	Molkanova
'Peterhof'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Pink Candy'	Japan	Ihara
'Purple Balloon'	Japan	Ihara
'Russkie Sezony'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Sineglazka'	Belarus	Makedonskaya



'Marshal Chuikov' by Olga Aladina

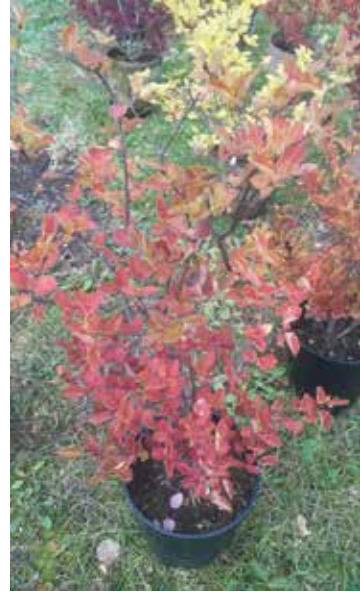


'Fubuki' by Hideo Ihara



< 'Leonid Leonov' by Mark DeBard





'Purple Balloon' by Hideo Ihara  
top left and above



< 'Ede Upītis' by Natalia Savenko



In addition, there were 61 new, non-registered additions to the Checklist, plus 5 breeder codes and 1 cognomen. Of these, 44 have established and accepted names. Here is a list of them with some pictures.

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Breeder</b>
'Akvarel'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Druzhba Narodov'	Russia	Kolesnikov
'Ekaterina Katukova'	Belarus	Belgorod Res U
'Khose Marti'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Letniĭ Dozhd'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Marshal Katukov'	Belarus	Belgorod Res U
'Nikolaĭ Gumilev'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Akademik E. M. Primakov'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Alexandr Nevskĭ'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Aliya Moldagulova'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Ametistovaya'	Uzbekistan	Kravchenko
'Anna Akhmatova'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Azhigali'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Beskonechnost'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Charoit'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Detstvo'	Uzbekistan	Kravchenko
'Dymka'	Uzbekistan	Kravchenko
'Elina Bystritskaya'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Ėma Juuli'	Estonia	Mägi
'Ėpifānija'	Latvia	Upītis
'Ėrmitažh'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Feya Sireni'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Gregor'	Estonia	Mägi
'Igor Severyanin'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Kurchavaya'	Uzbekistan	Kravchenko

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Breeder</b>
'Kurskaya Duga'	Russia	Aladin et al
'K'yanti'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Laureat'	Russia	Kolesnikov
'Lesnoï Landysh'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Lunnaya Sonata'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Mikhail Vrubel'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Monastyrskaya'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Pamyati B. K. Dyagileva'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Prokhoroyka'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Rozovaya Piramida'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Ryabchik'	Uzbekistan	Kravchenko
SCHolirofrag'	USA	Schoustra
'Severnaya Pal'mira'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Solov'inyi Sad'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Tsvetnoï Bul'var'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Turmalin'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Vladimir Vysotskiï'	Russia	Dyagilev et al
'Volkhonka'	Russia	Aladin et al
'Yauza'	Russia	Aladin et al



'Khose Marti' by Tatyana Polyakova



'Letniï Dozhd' by Olga Aladina



'Anna Akhmatova' by Olga Aladina



'Epifanija' by Natalia Savenko



'Feya Sireni' by Olga Aladina



'Charoit' by Olga Aladina



'Beskonechnost' by Olga Aladina



'Mikhail Vrubel' by Olga Aladina



'Igor Severyanin' by Olga Aladina



'K'yanti' by Olga Aladina



'Lesnoi Landysh' by Olga Aladina



'Ermitazh' by Olga Aladina



'Tsvetnoi Bul'var' by Olga Aladina



'Turmalin' by Olga Aladina



'Severnaya Pal'mira' by Olga Aladina



'Solov'inyi Sad' by Olga Aladina



'Volkhonka' by Olga Aladina



'Yauza' by Olga Aladina



'Monastyrskaya' by Olga Aladina



'Lunnaya Sonata' by Olga Aladina



Finally, of these 61 non-registered cultivars, 23 of them have had names appearing in print but without adequate descriptions and so the names are not accepted or considered established yet. Here they are with some pictures:

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Breeder</b>
'Afternoon of the Faun'	USA	Morley
'Maestro Jānis Zirnis'	Latvia	Upītis
'Spell of the Nymph'	USA	Morley
'Ūpiša bērns'	Latvia	unknown
EDDY (cognomen)	USA	Kowalik
FC 05 (breeder)	USA	Hoepfl
FC 10 (breeder)	USA	Hoepfl
'Gornyi Potok'	Kazakhstan	Sagitova et al
'Kanoko'	Japan	Ihara
'Karukaze'	Japan	Ihara
'Krasunya Kyeva'	Ukraine	Heide
'Maiia'	Kazakhstan	Sagitova et al
'Mar'ushka'	Kazakhstan	Sagitova et al
'Maya'	Kazakhstan	Sagitova et al
'Namejs'	Latvia	Kārklīš
'Nebesnaia Sin'	Kazakhstan	Sagitova et al
No. 8027 (breeder)	Latvia	Upītis
'Noziedēt Kopā'	Latvia	Upītis
'Priznanie'	Russia	Kolesnikov
RAF 162 (breeder)	USA	Fenicchia
RAF 219 (R83) (breeder)	USA	Fenicchia
'Raimonds Bočs'	Latvia	Upītis
'Ženja'	Latvia	Upītis

You can submit any new cultivar names or references to me at:  
[registrar@internationallilacsociety.org](mailto:registrar@internationallilacsociety.org)



'Afternoon of the Fawn' by Brian Morley



FC 10 by Natalie Savenko



'RAF 162' by Mary & Diane Meyer



'Krasunya Kyeva' by Ole Heide



'Noziedēt Kopā' by Natalia Savenko



'Namejs' by Natalia Savenko



'Gornyi Potok' by Oleg Dzevitskii



'Nebesnaia Sin' by Oleg Dzevitskii



'Ūpiša bērns' by Natalia Savenko



'Maiia' by Mark DeBard



'Raimonds Bočs' by Natalia Savenko

## Edible Lilacs!

by Claire Fouquet



Every year I wait for the sweet smell of lilacs to announce the arrival of real spring. While they only bloom for a few short weeks, their intoxicating scent fills the air and lifts my spirit after a long winter. I want to hold onto those moments and melt into them and cooking with lilacs is one way to enjoy their beautiful colors and scent.

**How to select and clean lilacs:** Only use flowers that have been grown organically. Do not use flowers that have been sprayed or that are growing by the side of the road, as they may have absorbed toxins. Cut lilac bunches from a bush to be used. Wash each bunch, being careful that any bugs are rinsed off. Further separate the flowers into smaller clusters on a thin stem. Gently pull each flower from the sepal (the green part at the base of the flower). One cup of lilacs will contain 40 to 60 individual blossoms. A single lilac bunch will likely yield between 1/2 and 1 cup of blossoms. The florets can be used in salads, decorate anything you wish or be frozen into ice cubes.

### Lilac Sugar

Preserve the blossom for seasons to come in a sugar that is perfect for baking or tea.

#### Ingredients

- sugar, as much as you'd like
- lilac florets, as much as you'd like, start with about ½ cup
- jar

#### Directions

Making lilac sugar is very easy and simple, just layer the dry lilac florets in a mason jar along with granulated sugar, how much you need will depend

on how big your mason jar is. Place the closed jar in a dark dry place. Every day gently shake the jar to mix the sugar. After the sugar is dry (this may take about a week or more) sift the sugar using a mesh strainer, to separate the dried lilac petals from the flavored sugar. This may take some time, so use a spoon. Lilac sugar can be used in tea or baking, or any other creative use you can come up with.

## Lilac Syrup

Lilac syrup is a lovely addition to your favorite summer cocktail or non-alcoholic beverage. Harvest the lilacs first thing in the morning while the temperatures are cooler, and the blossoms are at peak moisture content. Shake off any dead blossoms. Remove just the blossom, leaving behind the stems, leaves and the green bits. Wash as mentioned above.

### Ingredients

- 2 cups water
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup lilac florets

### Directions

Combine the water, sugar, lilac flowers. Bring to a boil and completely dissolve the sugar. Turn off the heat and allow to steep and cool completely. Strain the syrup, removing the flowers. Store in a closed container in the refrigerator for up to 10 days.

## Lilac Lemonade

Mix one part lilac syrup with four parts fresh homemade lemonade

## Lilac Butter or Lilac Cream Cheese

This can be served on croutons, fish, 'en papillote' vegetables or on whatever your heart feels like. It can be frozen once cut.

### Ingredients

- Room temperature butter or cream cheese (not low fat)
- Lilac florets, as many as you want

### Directions

- Roll the butter or cream cheese between two pieces of wax paper or plastic film, about 1cm (1/2") thick
- Sprinkle the florets all over, there is never too much

- Place as is in the refrigerator for 15 minutes
- Remove top paper and roll into a log. Roll the log into florets
- Cut into slices

## Lilac Liquor

This can be served over ice, added to cocktails or on desserts.

### Ingredients

- 6 freshly harvested and cleaned lilac panicles
- 1 cup 40% alcohol or vodka
- 1 ½ cup white sugar
- ¾ cup water

### Directions

- Place 2 panicles in a jar or glass bowl with the alcohol, steep for 4 hours
- Filter and keep the alcohol. Add 2 new panicles to the reserved alcohol, steep for 4 hours
- Filter again and keep alcohol. Add the last 2 panicles to reserved alcohol and steep for 8 hours then filter. Keep the alcohol.
- Meanwhile mix the sugar and water in a pot and cook to dissolve the sugar. Once the sugar is dissolved let the syrup cool.
- Once the 3 steepings are done and the syrup is cool, mix the syrup with the infused alcohol. Place in an airtight container and let infuse for one month before using.

## Candied Lilac Florets

### Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- Individual lilac blossoms, cleaned
- Finely granulated sugar

### Directions

In a saucepan, combine sugar and water. Cook and stir over medium heat until a candy thermometer reads 220°. Remove from the heat; cool to room temperature. Using a tweezers, dip lilac petals into the syrup, shaking off excess; dip into fine sugar. Place lilacs on sugar-coated waxed paper for 4 hours or until dry, turning occasionally. Store uncovered.

## Sugar Coated Lilac Florets

The florets will be fragile, yet quite capable of being gently packaged single layer, separated with parchment paper in a dry, tightly sealed container for a very long time. The flavour will diminish over time, but the colour will not. Use to garnish whatever begs a little dressing up.

### Ingredients

- Lilac florets in excellent condition
- 1 egg white
- Fine white sugar

### Directions

- Beat the egg white lightly (no foam). It can be thinned with a little water.
- Using tweezers to hold the floret and a small paint brush, apply egg white on both floret surfaces. Dip into sugar to coat evenly. Place the florets on a piece of wax paper covered with sugar and let the florets dry.

## Lilac Icing Glaze

This glaze can be used on any white cake or petits fours.

### Ingredients

- 6 cups (1.5 liters) icing sugar
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) milk
- 6 drops red food coloring
- 4 drops blue food coloring

### Instructions

Mix all ingredients until uniformly colored and ice you cake. The cake can be decorated with sugar coated or candied florets (see above)



Photos credit: Claire Fouquet, cupcakes: at the Moscow International Lilac Conference in 2018,

left: at The Lilac Museum Lilac Festival 2018.

# Durability in a vase of the inflorescences of lilac cultivars: from the Nikita Botanical Gardens collection

*Zykova V.K. , Federal State-Funded Institution of Science "The Nikita Botanical Gardens - National Scientific Center of the RAS" Yalta, Russia zykova.vk@mail.ru*

*(English translation by Google Translate & Mark L. DeBard)*

**Summary:** While conducting a more detailed introductory as well as comprehensive cultivar assessment of lilacs from the collection of the Nikita Botanical Gardens - National Scientific Center, the durability of cuttings for 37 cultivars and taxons was studied. 14 species and cultivars with low (less than 4 days), 16 cultivars and forms with medium (4-5 days), and 7 varieties with high (6 days or more) durability of the cuttings have been identified. Those with medium to high durability in a vase are recommended for use as cut inflorescences for decorative purposes.

**Keywords:** double-flowered cultivar, single-flowered cultivar, introduction assessment, comprehensive cultivar assessment.

The task of the introductory assessment and the comprehensive cultivar assessment of lilac cultivars is the most complete study of their biological and decorative features. One of these features, which illustrates the possibilities of using cultivars, is their durability in a vase, i.e. the time of preservation of decorative beauty of cut inflorescences. Literary sources provide contradictory information: some of them indicate that cuttings of lilac inflorescences put in a vase quickly fade [1], and others that cut inflorescences last in a vase for 5-10 days [2].

To expand the possibilities of using lilac cultivars from the collection of the Nikitsky Botanical Garden of the National Scientific Center (NBS - NSC) and to assess them more fully, we conducted an experiment to determine the durability of cuttings of lilac inflorescences. For the experiment, 37 cultivars and taxons of lilacs were selected. 34 cultivars were selected for the experiment (17 with single flowers and 17 with double flowers) which were distinguished



by the highest ornamental qualities of their inflorescences. Branches with inflorescences were cut at the stage of the beginning of mass flowering in the first half of the day, placed in a container with water and kept indoors at room temperature. The end of the experiment was considered the day when the inflorescences withered and lost their ornamental effect. The experiment was carried out five times for each cultivar or taxon.

It was found that branches with inflorescences last as cuttings from 2 to 8 days and this period depends on the cultivar or taxon type. There are clearly expressed cultivar differences in durability of the cutting (table 1).

The studied cultivars were subdivided into three groups according to cutting durability: low (2-3 days), medium (4-5 days) and high (6-8 days). Cultivars of all three groups are found among cultivars with simple and double flowers, but cultivars with single flowers are dominated by those with low cutting durability, and cultivars with double flowers are dominated by those with medium to high cutting durability.

It was found that inflorescences of *Syringa vulgaris* L. have low durability and last in a vase for only 3 days, while in *S. x chinensis* 'Duplex' and *S. persica* v. *alba* they last from 4 to 5 days, i.e. are of medium durability.

In the group of cultivars with low durability, there were 3 ('Marceau', 'Marechal Foch', 'Mechta') out of 4 cultivars distinguished by a particularly large flower size (more than 3 cm). On the other hand, the fourth large-flowered cultivar 'Buffon', belonging to the hybrid form of *Syringa x hyacinthiflora*, turned out to have one of the most durable cuttings.

**Table 1.**

Durability of cuttings of cultivars and taxons of lilacs in the collection NBS - NSC

Cultivar or Taxon	Shelf Life in Days					Average
	Specimen number					
	I	II	III	IV	V	
<b>Buffon</b>	6	5	6	7	6	6,0
Furst Bulow	2	3	3	3	2	2,5
<b>Jeanne d'Arc</b>	5	4	4	5	4	4,4

<b>Katherine Havemeyer</b>	6	6	6	7	7	6,4
<b>Leon Gambetta</b>	6	5	5	5	5	5,2
Marceau	2	3	4	3	3	3,0
Marechal Foch	2	3	4	4	2	3,0
Maximowicz	2	4	3	3	3	3,0
<b>Mme Antoine Buchner</b>	6	6	6	7	6	6,2
Mme Casimir Perier	3	3	4	4	3	3,4
<b>Mme Lemoine</b>	4	5	5	5	4	4,6
<b>Mont Blanc</b>	5	6	6	5	6	5,6
Mrs Edward Harding	4	3	3	3	3	3,2
Negro	4	3	4	4	3	3,6
<b>President Grevy</b>	5	4	4	4	4	4,2
<b>President Loubet</b>	5	4	5	5	4	4,6
Reaumur	3	3	4	4	3	3,4
<b>Romance</b>	8	8	9	8	7	8,0
Vestale	3	3	4	2	2	2,8
Bogdan Khmel'nitskii	4	2	3	3	3	3,0
<b>Golubaya</b>	5	7	6	7	5	6,0
<b>Krasavitsa Moskvyy</b>	5	5	5	6	5	5,2
<b>Leonid Leonov</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4,0
Mechta	3	3	3	3	2	2,8
<b>Nadezhda</b>	5	7	6	7	5	6,0
<b>Ogni Donbassa</b>	7	6	7	7	6	6,6
<b>Olimpiada Kolesnikova</b>	5	4	4	4	4	4,2
<b>P.P. Konchalovskii</b>	5	4	5	5	4	4,6
<b>Radzh Kapur</b>	5	4	5	4	4	4,6
<b>Sevastopol'skii Val's</b>	5	4	4	4	4	4,2
<b>Taras Bulba</b>	6	5	5	5	5	5,2
Topaz	2	3	3	3	2	2,6
El'tigen	4	3	3	3	3	3,0
<b>Yubileinaya</b>	6	5	5	5	5	5,2
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> L.	3	2	3	4	3	3,0
<b>S. x chinensis 'Duplex'</b>	4	4	5	4	5	4,4
<b>S. persica v. alba</b>	5	4	5	5	4	4,6

**14 taxons and cultivars have been identified with low durability:** 'Furst Bulow', 'Marceau', 'Marechal Foch', 'Maximowicz', 'Mme Casimir Perier', 'Mrs Edward Harding', 'Negro', 'Reaumur', 'Vestale', 'Bogdan Khmel'nitskii', 'Mechta', 'Topaz', 'El'tigen', and *Syringa vulgaris* L.

**16 cultivars and taxons (bolded in Table 1) were identified with medium durability:** 'Jeanne d'Arc', 'Leon Gambetta', 'Mme Lemoine', 'Mont Blanc', 'President Grevy', 'President Loubet', 'Beauty of Moscow', 'Leonid Leonov', 'Olympiada Kolesnikova', 'P.P. Konchalovskii', 'Radzh Kapur', 'Sevastopol'skii Val'z', 'Taras Bulba', 'Yubileinaya', *S. x chinensis* 'Duplex', and *S. persica v. alba*.

**7 cultivars (bolded and italicized in Table 1) with high cutting durability were identified:** 'Buffon', 'Katherine Havemeyer', 'Mme Antoine Buchner', 'Romance', 'Golubaya', 'Nadezhda', and 'Ogni Donbassa'.

Cultivars and taxons with medium and high cutting durability are recommended for use not only for landscaping, but also for cut flowers.

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How to save the lilac branch you cut off [Electronic resource] // Flower workshop Motley Grass <https://centre-flower.ru/blog/49-kak-sohranit-srezannuu-vami-vetku> -



High durability cultivar *S. vulgaris* 'Katherine Havemeyer'

## Rapid method for describing cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* in a collection

Kruglova K.N., All-Russia Research Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, Moscow, Russia, [syringa.life@gmail.com](mailto:syringa.life@gmail.com)  
(English translation by Google Translate & Mark L. DeBard)

**Summary:** A rapid method has been developed for describing cultivars of *Syringa vulgaris* based on a group of characteristics of the structure of a flower with an accuracy to the cultivar group. The characteristic values are described under three headings. A key has been developed based on a group of characteristics, according to which a cultivar can be assigned to a cultivar group. Each cultivar group is assigned its own cultivar standard. The technique allows the quick and easy assignment of any cultivar to any cultivar group, and with the introduction of additional parameters, can even determine the specific cultivar.

**Keywords:** lilac cultivars, flower morphology, cultivar description method, cultivar group, cultivar standard

*Syringa vulgaris* has been known as an ornamental plant in horticulture since the middle of the 16th century. By the number of registered cultivars of lilacs, it occupies one of the leading places among ornamental shrubs [1].

Plants of lilac cultivars differ in the shape of the bud, the structure of the flower and inflorescence, in aroma, flowering time, color, shape and shade of leaves, and habit, but there is still no single description scheme that allows reliable distinguishing of cultivars. [2] The question remains: is it possible to create a fast and accurate method with an optimal set of characteristic markers for the identification of cultivars, understandable to both specialists and amateurs?

This work presents one method for the rapid initial assessment of the *S. vulgaris* cultivar. The basis of the work is a visual assessment of the cultivar. The rapid cultivar notes should be taken during the flowering period. This period is fleeting (sometimes only 4-5 days from bud opening to flowering). From this it follows that data for collecting information about a cultivar should be conveniently arranged, carefully thought out and easily identifiable.

Additional information about the habit, shape and color of leaves, and even about the structure of the panicle, etc. can be gotten later, not during the flowering period. But the most valuable information will still be about the flower and its structure. It is upon the visual assessment of flower morphology that most of the identifiers of lilac cultivars are built.

The rapid method is based on the morphological characteristics of the flower; therefore, it is mainly applicable during the flowering period. The classification of the cultivar occurs with certainty up to the cultivar group.

This work was carried out on 163 cultivars of *S. vulgaris* in the department of ornamental plants of the Main Botanical Garden named after N.V. Tsitsin RAS. [3]

**Step 1.** Of all the morphological features in the reproductive realm, the most significant feature is the “flower form”—double or single. On this basis, at the first step, all cultivars were divided into two groups. The work analyzed 90 cultivars with a single flower form and 73 with a double flower. [4]

**Step 2.** Further study was carried out within each group, analyzing the morphological characteristics of different cultivars for each of these groups. Using the following tables, a set of flower traits was determined and recorded for each cultivar separately.

**Step 3.** Based on a group of characteristics, a cultivar was assigned to one of the cultivar groups. Each cultivar group was characterized by a reference cultivar standard. Requirements for cultivar standards included typicalness for the group and wide distribution of the cultivar in the world.

The cultivars combined into cultivar groups are characterized by a similar set of traits within the group and have significant differences from other cultivar groups. The cultivars of individual cultivar groups are visually well distinguishable from each other.

The rapid method does not consider the color of the flower. But after determining a cultivar belongs to any cultivar group, information about the color can help to identify the cultivar.

Below are tables with a group of characteristics, cultivar groups and cultivar standards listed separately for single and double cultivars. [5, 6]

## Cultivars with a single flower form.

A group of four morphological features of the corolla structure was used for the description (Table 1).

**Table 1**

Signs of the structure of the corolla of cultivars with a single flower form

No.	Sign	Feature Expression		
		1	2	3
I	Corolla tube	Short	Equal to petal	Elongated
II	Corolla petal lobes position	Flat	Concave	Retroflexed
III	Corolla petal lobe shape	Elliptical	Plain Ovoid	Ovoid Compressed
IV	Corolla petal portion position in space	Flat	Slightly Concave	Concave

**Cultivar group 1S.** Cultivars with an elongated corolla tube, a flat position of the elliptical corolla petal lobes and a flat position of the corolla petal portion in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Primrose'.

Cultivar members: 'Assessipi', 'Virginia Becker', 'Pascal', 'Voorzitter Dix', 'Primrose', 'Amethyst-2', 'Prinses Beatrix', 'Dzhambul', 'Skromnitsa', *S. vulgaris* var. *alba*.

**Cultivar group 2S.** Cultivars with a short corolla tube, a flat position of the elliptical corolla petal lobes and a slightly concave position of the corolla petal lobes in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Monument'.

Cultivar members: 'Danton', 'Monument', 'Frank Paterson', 'Zarya Komunizma', 'Laplace', 'Pol' Robson'.

**Cultivar group 3S.** Cultivars with a short corolla tube, a flat position of the elliptical corolla petal lobes and a concave position of the corolla petal lobes in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Leonid Leonov'.

Cultivar members: 'Andenken an Ludwig Späth', 'Priscilla', 'Marceau', 'Leonid Leonov'.

**Cultivar group 4S.** Cultivars with a short corolla tube, a plain ovoid petal lobe shape, flat corolla petal lobes and a flat position of the corolla petal lobes in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Decaisne'.

Cultivar members: 'Decaisne', 'Madame Charles Souchet', 'Firmament', 'Stefan Makowiecki', 'Flora 1953', 'Sheremetev', 'J.R. Koning'.

**Cultivar group 5S.** Cultivars with a corolla tube equal to the petal, an

Flat position of the elliptical lobes of the corolla petal and a flat position of the corolla petal position in space. 0

Cultivar standard for group: 'Excellent'.

Cultivar members: 'Agincourt Beauty', 'Hugo Koster', 'Dresden China', 'Twilight', 'Excellent'.

**Cultivar group 6S.** Cultivars with a corolla tube equal to the petal, an flat position of the elliptical lobes of the corolla petal and a slightly concave position of the corolla petal lobe in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Cavour'.

Cultivar members: 'Cavour', 'Elena Rosse', 'Mirabeau', 'Kosmos', 'Rochester', 'Mechta'.

**Cultivar group 7S.** Cultivars with a corolla tube equal to the petal, an flat position of the elliptical lobes of the corolla petal and a concave position of the corolla petal lobe in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'The Bride'.

Cultivar members: 'G.J. Baardse', 'Purple Glory', 'Gilbert', 'The Bride', 'Mood Indigo'.

**Cultivar group 8S.** Cultivars with a corolla tube equal to the petal, a plain ovoid shape, flat lobes of the corolla petal and a flat position of the corolla petal share in space.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Reaumur'.

Cultivar members: 'Christophe Colomb', 'Pom Pom', 'Peerless Pink', 'Reaumur'.

**Cultivar group 9S.** Cultivars with a corolla tube equal to the petal, a concave position of the elliptical lobes of the petal edge and a flat position of the petal edge position in space.

Cultivar standard for group: ‘Gortenziya’.

Cultivar members: ‘Buffon’, ‘Kremlëvskie Kuranty’, ‘Gortenziya’, ‘Mulatka’.

Using the proposed description scheme, it is possible to immediately identify 12 cultivars of *S. vulgaris* with a single flower form, and with the inclusion in the definition of the characteristic of flower color, 26 more cultivars: ‘Anne Shiach’, ‘Anna Nickles’, ‘Dr Brethour’, ‘Dusk’, ‘Esther Staley’, ‘Frau Wilhelm Pfitzer’, ‘Glory’, ‘Grace Orthwaite’, ‘Helena Agathe Keessen’, ‘Hyazinthenlieder’, ‘Jan van Tol’, ‘Jonkheer G.F. van Tets’, ‘Kingsville’, ‘Lady Lindsay’, ‘Lucie Baltet’, ‘Madame Rosel’, ‘Martha’, ‘Mme F. Morel’, ‘Mme Felix’, ‘Monge’, ‘Mrs. W.E. Marshal’, ‘Mrs. Watson Webb’, ‘Night’, ‘Fürst Bülow’, ‘Mme Florent Stepman’, ‘Pasteur’, ‘Riet Bruidegom’, ‘Romance’, ‘Sensation’, ‘Vesuve’, ‘White Long Fellow’, ‘Alexei Maresëv’, ‘Gastello’, ‘Krasnaya Moskva’, ‘Pamyati A.T. Smol’skoi’, ‘Partizanka’, ‘Rus’, ‘Svityazanka’.

Thus, the rapid method makes it possible to identify 38 out of 90 cultivars with a single flower form analyzed based on 4 morphological features of the corolla structure.

### Cultivars with a double flower form

A group of three morphological features of the corolla structure was used for the description (Table 2).

**Table 2**

Signs of the structure of the corolla of cultivars with a double flower form

No.	Sign	Feature Expression		
		1	2	3
I.	Corolla petal lobes position	flat	concave	retroflexed
II.	Corolla petal lobe shape	Elliptical	Approximately equal numbers of elliptical and ovoid	ovoid
III.	Flower Center	open	Approximately equal number of open and closed centers	closed



**Cultivar group 1D.** Cultivars with a retroflexed position of the ovoid lobes of the corolla petal and an approximately equal ratio of flowers with an open and closed center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Mrs. Edward Harding'.

Cultivar members: 'Capitaine Perrault', 'Bogdan Khmel'nitsky', 'Mrs Edward Harding', 'Utro Moskvyy', 'Viviand-Morel'.

**Cultivar group 2D.** Cultivars with a retroflexed position of the ovoid lobes of the corolla petal and a closed flower center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Charles Joly'.

Cultivar members: 'Charles Joly', 'Paul Harriot', 'Edouard André', 'Nezhnost', 'Hippolyte Maringer', 'Olympiada Kolesnikova', 'Paul Deschanel'.

**Cultivar group 3D.** Cultivars with an ovoid shape of corolla lobes and an open flower center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Zashchitnikam Bresta'.

Cultivar members: 'Edith Cavell', 'President Poincaré', 'Georges Claude', 'Elena Vekhova', 'Henri Robert', 'Zashchitnikam Bresta'.

**Cultivar group 4D.** Cultivars with an ovoid shape of the lobes of the corolla petal and an approximately equal ratio of flowers with an open and closed center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Montaigne'.

Cultivar members: 'Fantasy', 'President Fallieres', 'Jules Simon', 'Sweetheart', 'Montaigne', 'Pamyat' o Vekhove', 'Planchon', 'Sovetskaya Arktika'.

**Cultivar group 5D.** Cultivars with an ovoid shape of the lobes of the corolla petal and a closed flower center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Royal Purple'.

Cultivar members: 'Emile Lemoine', 'Royal Purple', 'General Pershing', 'Utro Moskvyy'.

**Cultivar group 6D.** Cultivars with a concave position of ovoid lobes of the corolla petal and a closed center of the flower.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Miss Ellen Willmott'.

Cultivar members: 'Miss Ellen Willmott', 'St. Joan', 'Mme Lemoine', 'Thunberg', 'Rowancroft Pink', 'Russkaya Pesnya'.

**Cultivar group 7D.** Cultivars with a flat position of the corolla pe-

tal lobes, approximately equal number of elliptical and ovoid corolla petal lobes and an approximately equal ratio of flowers with an open and closed center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Violetta'.

**Cultivar members:** 'Boussingault', 'Marshal Vasilevskii', 'Dr Maillot', 'Na-dezhda', 'Katherine Havemeyer', 'Nebo Moskvyy', 'Violetta', 'Nina', 'Kru-zhevnitsa'.

**Cultivar group 8D.** Cultivars with a concave position of the corolla petal lobes, approximately the same number of elliptical and ovoid corolla petal lobes and an approximately equal ratio of flowers with an open and closed center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Ami Schott'.

Cultivar members: 'Ami Schott', 'Pamyat' o S.M. Kirove', 'Michel Buchner', 'Zashchitkam Moskvyy'.

**Cultivar group 9D.** Cultivars with an elliptical position of corolla petal lobes and an open flower center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'President Grévy'.

Cultivar members: 'Aucubaefolia', 'Maximowicz', 'Alice Eastwood', 'President Grévy', 'Marechal Lannes', 'Pearl'.

**Cultivar group 10D.** Cultivars with an elliptical position of corolla petal lobes and an approximately equal ratio of flowers with an open and closed center.

Cultivar standard for group: 'Tom Taylor'.aCultivar members: 'Mme Antoine Buchner', 'Tom Taylor', 'Princesse Clementine', 'Pavlinka'.

Using the proposed description scheme, it is possible to immediately identify three cultivars of *S. vulgaris* with a double flower form, and with the inclusion of the characteristic of flower color in the definition, 11 more: 'Souvenir d'Alice Harding', 'Anabel', 'De Sau-ssure', 'Jeanne d'Arc', 'Mme Abel Chatenay', 'Mme Casimir Perier', 'Monique Lemoine', 'St. Margaret', 'Swarthmore', 'Vek', 'Krasavitsa Moskvyy', 'Ogni Donbassa', 'Pamyat' o Kolesnikov', 'Taras Bulba'.

Thus, this rapid method makes it possible to identify 14 out of 73 cultivars with a double flower shape taken for analysis based on 3

morphological features of the corolla structure.

The data from rapid assessments of common lilac cultivars can be successfully applied, for example, in assessing the prospects of introduction. If a plant of a certain cultivar is not sufficiently stable in urban conditions, then by defining its cultivar group, it is possible to offer a phenotypically indistinguishable substitute with suitable characteristics for urban landscaping. This is most likely the only plus for many cultivars of lilacs that are similar in appearance, in which often the difference in flowering is not visible even to specialists.

The results of the work on the selection of marker traits for cultivar study and cultivar determination are used in the “Methodology for conducting tests for distinctness, uniformity and stability. LILAC (SYRINGA L.) “No. 12-06 / 32 dated 02.08.2010, adopted by the FSI State Commission of the Russian Federation for Testing and Protection of Breeding Achievements (RTG / 1086/1). [7]

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## Serbia—the Country of Lilacs

*Tonkovich R.D., Serbian Air Force, Belgorod, Serbia,  
radmilatonkovic@yahoo.com*

*(English translation by Google Translate & Mark L. DeBard)*

**Summary:** This article presents the history of the spread of lilacs in Serbia, describes in detail the project “Lilacs of Victory” which took place over several years, and the planting of lilacs for the 100th Serbian Air Force anniversary.

**Keywords:** Lilac, Serbia, Lilac Valley, Victory Lilac

The valley along the Ibar River is one of the most beautiful in Serbia and extends from the town of Kosovska Mitrovica to the town of Kraljevo, between which the Ibar road winds, and which was built by the old Rascians later expanded by the Serbian monarchs, and today belongs to the great Serbian roads with the densest traffic. Here, in the valley of the Ibar River, the foundations of the Serbian medieval state, its spirituality and culture were laid—the ancient city of Ras, the first Serbian capital, the Zicha monastery, the first Serbian archbishopric and the most valuable Serbian medieval monasteries—Studenica, Sopočany, and Gradac, part of the very top world cultural heritage sites. Because of this, the valley is called the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Lilacs.

The Valley of the Kings is associated with the Serbian king [Stefan] Uros I Nemanich (1243–1276). Seven centuries ago it was in this valley that he met his chosen bride, the French princess Elena [Helen] of Anjou, the future Serbian queen, who came from the fields of Provence to a completely different environment—to mountainous Serbia. Because of this the Serbian king wanted to show her his hospitality and greetings in the first days of living together in a new environment, and so, as a sign of great love, he decided and ordered that lilacs be planted everywhere in the Valley of the Kings for 270 km along the Ibar River.

In this way, in 1245 the messenger of spring, fragrant lilacs, met the future Serbian queen and future Saint Helen of Anjou, who figured significantly in Serbian medieval history. Thousands of colored lilac bushes of blue, pink and white along the 270 km road through the valley gave their name to the Valley of Lilacs, which was and remains



the bequest of love of the Serbian king Uroš I to his wife. It was a chivalrous gesture, unprecedented and even unmatched in royal circles.

For 40 years, as long as the International Lilac Society has existed, it was believed that lilacs first appeared in the 16th century and that they came from France and China. At the international conference of this organization, Professor Tonkovic, in her speech, changed the history of lilacs, shifting the time of the appearance of lilacs 3 centuries earlier in favor of medieval Serbia, as the ancestral home of this interesting plant. She was able to do this thanks primarily to the Russian lilac experts: Tatyana Polyakova, vice-president of the International Lilac Society, and the whole family of the Aladins—Sergei, Anastasia and Olga. They even raised and presented her with a new lilac cultivar and named it ‘Radmila’, a great honor at the world level. These people are the pride of the Russian Federation—they are professionals, patriots, specialists, enthusiasts, as well as amazing people, whose magnificent work and love for lilacs are conquering the world. They came and saw my “Serbia—the country of lilacs” and I am grateful to them from the bottom of my heart. I looked with delight and read on the website of Tatyana Polyakova that my named

lilac cultivar results from domestic breeding, not foreign, and this is a special honor for me. I bow low to my beloved genius Russian friends, with whom I planted lilacs in the Russian Federation and Norway.

Elena [Helen] founded the first girls' boarding school in Serbia for poor girls, to whom she taught writing, knitting, embroidery and music, when Europe was not at all interested in the education of girls, especially those of low birth. Her house was the first school and the first library, the so-called book depository, in which books were copied, the covers of which she made in gold from jewelers in the city of Kotor (today Montenegro). She built many churches, schools, hospitals and gave two sons to the Serbian people—the future famous kings [Stefan] Dragutin and [Stefan] Milutin.

She is proclaimed Saint Helena [by the Serbian Orthodox Church]. Together with her sons, she built many monasteries, churches, and schools. Two icons with her image were painted in the 13th century, one of them now located in Moscow in the Serbian Church of Saints Peter and Paul in Kitay-Gorod [Red Square].

### **The Lilac Valley in the twentieth century**

Serbia: the Lilac Valley campaign, was started by the Serbian journalist Vesna de Vinca in 2007 with the help of two princes from the great royal dynasties Orleans and Karadjordjevic in the Lilac Valley along the Ibar River. In the spring of 2007, the heir to the French crown, Prince Charles Philippe d'Orleans, planted 100 new lilac saplings in the river valley. Together with him, the fiancée of the Voivode [Military Governor] Dayana de Cadaval from Portugal, the Serbian prince Alexander Karageorgievich and the knights of the Order of St. Lazarus from Jerusalem, headed by the Swiss royal count Philip Pikapietr, took part in the program.

In 2008, the Ecological Center of Belgrade planted 1000 lilac saplings in Belgrade on the embankment of the Sava River, and in 2009 Princess Babara of Liechtenstein planted a new lilac on the banks of the Sava River sandbar. Over the five years of this activity in Serbia, representatives of different societies from 39 countries have planted 6,000 lilac seedlings as a result. For the past 19 years, and in honor of Elena Anjuska [Helen of Anjou], the Commonwealth of Serbian–French Friendship “Elena Anjujska” from the city of Kraljevo has

been organizing a unique event in May called “Lilac Days”, a significant cultural, ecological and tourist event.

### **The first Lilacs of Victory campaign in Serbia in 2012**

Serbia, the country of lilacs, on Orthodox Easter received and met with joy the patriotic delegation from fraternal Russia called “Lilacs of Victory”. The delegation included 36 people from the Victory Commanders Memorial Fund, members of the family of Marshal of the USSR Sergei Biryuzov, students and professors of Moscow schools No. 92, No. 703 and No. 1747, members of the International Lilac Society, leaders of the Children’s Public Organization “Flower Druzhina”, Children and Youth regional movement “Soldier’s Scarf”, and the House of Children’s Public Organizations of the Moscow City Hall.

The campaign “Lilacs of Victory” was held in Serbia from April 15-21, 2012 at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Belgrade, with the planting of the Alley of Russian Lilacs near the Embassy. Flowers were laid on Mount Avala and lilacs were planted at the monument erected at the site of the death of Soviet military leaders who were heading to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the liberation of Belgrade. The delegation visited the memorial to the soldier-liberators of Belgrade in the suburbs of Belgrade, with the laying of flowers and the planting of the Alley of the Russian lilacs. Particularly touching and sad was the visit to the monument to the children who died during the NATO bombing in 1999, where the delegation also planted the Victory lilac. Lilac cultivars ‘Marshal Biryuzov’ were also planted near the house of the diplomat Gleb Vyshinsky and around my dacha located on Mount Avala.

### **One hundred lilac bushes for the 100th anniversary of the Serbian air force**

Serbia together with its partners in 2012 celebrated and glorified the 100th anniversary of its Air Force. In the anniversary year 2012, numerous actions and demonstrations dedicated to a century of Serbian military aviation were organized. One of the most beautiful patriotic actions took place on October 11 at the Aeronautics Museum in Belgrade under the symbolic slogan: “100 lilac bushes for 100 years of the Serbian Air Force.”

The organizers of this unusual action were our excellent journalists Vesna de Vinca and professor Radmila Tonkovic, who, as a member and delegate, welcomed the activity on behalf of the “Lilacs of Victory” program of the International Lilac Society. Companions in the organization of this action were: Union of Citizens “Let’s Bring Back the Beauty to the Rivers”, the Air Navigation Museum in Belgrade, the Ministry of Defense with the Air Force and Air Defense Command, the Ministry of Energy, Development and Environmental Protection and the JKP “Zelenilo-Belgrade”.

This magnificent event was attended by: His Royal Majesty Prince Alexander Karageorgievich–RAF pilot, and Her Royal Majesty Princess Barbara of Liechtenstein, representatives of the Air Force and Air Defense of the Serbian Army, military pilots and pensioners, diplomats from several countries, representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church, media representatives, numerous high-ranking functionaries and public figures. All participants in this action planted 100 lilac bushes in front of the Aeronautics Museum as a token of memory of all the fallen and deceased pilots with the wish that Serbia would become the Land of Lilacs, as it was in the Middle Ages. This event was adorned with songs and dances by kids from a kindergarten, schoolgirls and the choir of the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC).

The lilac is a tree derived from olive trees in our time, a strong plant that even survived the Ice Age; it is a symbol of stability, firmness, vitality, peace, victory, and longevity, which has distinguished the Serbian Air Force for 100 years. The 100 lilac bushes planted alongside the airplanes in front of the Aeronautics Museum show power and durability, a wonderful history and a confident future, as well as an admiration for and memory of all the brave knights of the sky who forever inscribed themselves in flight over our motherland of Serbia.

### **Second Patriotic Action “Lilacs of Victory” in Serbia in 2014**

This patriotic action was held in the cities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, and Kragujevac, where new lilac bushes were planted in honor of the great victory over fascism, at the same time that the President of the Russian Federation was a guest at the Victory Parade in Belgrade. This gave a special solemn touch to the Lilacs of Victory Lilac Campaign.



At the Russian House in Belgrade, the delegation got acquainted with the activities of the Houses of Russian Science and Culture abroad. Alleys of Russian lilacs were planted near the Russian House, the Church of the Holy Trinity of the Moscow Courtyard of the Russian Orthodox Church, and near the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

The delegation visited schools No. 1 and No. 5 of the city of Belgrade and established twin-city relations between Russian and Serbian schools, signing joint agreements and planting a Russian lilac. This cooperation continues to this day. The delegation was especially impressed by a visit to the Nikola Tesla Museum, a brilliant Serbian and world-famous inventor. As a US citizen, Nikola Tesla bequeathed the urn with his own ashes and his entire archive to be taken to his historical homeland.

The massive Russian-Serbian Campaign “Lilacs of Victory” was also held at the confluence of the Sava and Danube rivers in Belgrade, where 100 lilac bushes were planted for the organization “Serbia is the country of lilacs”.

An interesting and solemn excursion took place to the Lilac Valley in southern Serbia along the Ibar River, passing the city of Kraljevo in the very heart of Serbia, in the vicinity of the historical region of Raska. It should be borne in mind that the German fascists in World War II inflicted indescribable damage to the Lilac Valley. On the way, the delegation visited the city of Kragujevac and planted the Alley of Russian Lilacs at the monument in memory of the victims of the mass execution of civilians on October 21, 1941 by the German fascists, among whom were 7,000 children.

On the way to the Nikola Tesla airport, the delegation visited the Belgrade Air Museum. Its exposition contains artifacts of the Second World War, the very beginning of aeronautics and, of course, the times of socialism. There are also trophies from the most recent war of NATO bombing. These are aircraft shot down by Serbian troops.

On the territory of Serbia, the Russian delegation planted 200 seedlings of the best cultivars of lilacs—Krasavitsa Moskvyy, Krasnaya Moskva, Zashchitnikam Bresta, Kremlevskie Kuranty, Galina Ulanova, Sovetskaya Arktika, Nadezhda, Pavlinka, Belle de Nancy, Emile Lemoine, Madame Lemoine, Hugo de Vries, Olivier de Serre, Jeanne

d'Arc and Firmament, which were donated by the Piccoplant Company from Germany, led by our faithful friend Elke Hasse and the company representative Eugen Rack, who were amazed by the beauty and hospitality of the people and the excellent organization of the Lilac Victory Campaign "Lilacs of Victory".

The Russian Commonwealth world famous RUSSIAN LILAC [breeding group] has named three lilacs for Serbs—'Elena Anzhuyskaya', 'Golubka Tesly' and 'Radmila', for which I am grateful to them from the bottom of my heart!

### "ELENA OF ANZHUISKAYA"

Spring bloomed in her hair  
It smells like lilacs for beautiful Elena,  
The wind carries her on the wings of love  
Along the wonderful green Valley.  
Like a white sail in a quiet entrance  
White lilacs sway in the wind  
Her hand in his hand  
He had been waiting for her a whole life.  
Centuries will pass through the Valley of eternity  
And winter enchants the gorge  
And then the lilac fragrance will waft  
For a woman—Saint Helena.

## LILACS OF ROCHESTER

*by Claire Fouquet, translation Mark DeBard\**

Highland Park, located near downtown Rochester, in New York state, has one of the largest collections of lilacs in the world: 1,200 shrubs comprising 400 cultivars and species. It's not a coincidence since the city of Rochester enjoys a long horticultural tradition. As proof: in 1855, half of the nurseries in New York state came from there. In 1856, more fruit trees were grown in the county of Monroe, where this city is, than in all the rest of the United States.



'Adelaide Dunbar', Dunbar 1916

One of Rochester's leading hybridizers, John Dunbar (1859-1927),



'Frederick Douglass', Fenicchia 1916

was the first superintendent of Highland Park. This Scottish immigrant planted the first lilac in 1892. A few years later, in 1898, he presided over the first Sunday of lilacs, a popular festival highlighting their flowering.

Then around 1900, Dunbar gathered the best lilacs available of the day. His selections have grown so well that they have become an attraction, both in Rochester and in surrounding areas.



'Frederick Law Olmsted', Fenicchia 1988



However, it is Bernard H. Slavin, John Dunbar's successor, who organized the large collection that can be seen today. One of his colleagues, Alvan R. Grant, gave the world one of the most beautiful horticultural successes, the common lilac 'Rochester'. This fabulous specimen was soon to be used often in crosses, among others by Richard A. Fenicchia (1908-1997), a horticulturist at Highland Park from 1950 to 1978, and by Father Fiala.



'General Grant', Dunbar 1917



'President Lincoln', Dunbar 1916  
B. Peart & M. Walton



'William S. Riley', Dunbar 1922  
B. Peart & M. Walton

\* Original text from 'Les Lilas', Frank Moro and Rock Giguère





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