

International Lilac Registrar at Royal Botanical Gardens



About the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA)

Royal Botanical Gardens is the International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for lilacs. We maintain the International Register of Cultivar names in the genus *Syringa*. Our registrar registers new cultivar names in accordance with the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants (ICNCP) under the guidance of the International Horticultural Society (ISHS) Commission on Nomenclature and Registration. Information on cultivar name registration can be viewed on the ISHS website's [ICRA pages](#).

Statement of purpose

"Registration, preferably on an international basis, of cultivar and cultivar-group epithets and the publication of registers are of the greatest importance for promoting uniformity, accuracy and stability in the naming of cultivated plants." (Principle 10, International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants - 1995 [ICNCP-1995])

"An International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) is an organization charged with the registration of cultivar and cultivar-group epithets as provided for by this Code and with ensuring their establishment (valid publication) when this is necessary." (Article 7, loc. cit.)

History

Establishment of cultivar and cultivar-group epithets in the denomination class *Syringa L.*, lilacs, commences with the publication of S. D. McKelvey's *The Lilac* — a monograph, New York, Macmillan, in December 1928. The original proposal to use McKelvey's *The Lilac* as standard for cultivar names of lilacs was made by the Nomenclature Committee at the XII International Horticultural Congress (Berlin; 1936).

In 1941 the Sub-Committee on Lilacs of the Committee on Horticultural Varieties and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums conducted a survey of lilacs cultivated in North America. The findings were published in *Lilacs for America Report* of 1941 with a survey by the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation in April 1942. The subcommittee drew up a colour classification for lilacs. Although this classification is useful for grouping lilac cultivars by colour, it is inadequate for description and identification of cultivars.

The Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation, Swarthmore College, in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, U.S.A, was designated International Cultivar Registration Authority (ICRA) for cultivar names in the genus *Syringa* in 1958 by the 15th International Horticultural Congress. In 1974, Royal Botanical Gardens was designated by the 19th International Horticultural Congress to succeed the Scott Foundation. Freek Vrugtman was appointed Registrar.

Lilac cultivar name registration lists have been published successively in *Arnoldia* (1963-1966), *Arboretum and Botanical Garden Bulletin* (1967-1984), and *HortScience* (1988-present).

Applications and Register Copies

The "International Register and Checklist of Cultivar Names in the Genus *Syringa L.*" and its associated files can be accessed and downloaded [here](#).

There are twelve files; each file is identified by a headline. Each file carries the date on which it was last modified; users can replace outdated files with updated ones at wish. Click on each file to view the document.

As always, user comments concerning errors and omissions are invited and essential to keep the files up-to-date. Please contact the [International Lilac Registrar](#).

Contact information

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