

‘Liliana’ – a new cultivar of common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.)

‘Liliana’ – nowy kultywar lilaka pospolitego (*Syringa vulgaris* L.)

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ABSTRACT: A new cultivar of lilac (*Syringa vulgaris* L.) which originated spontaneously at the Kórnik Arboretum, Poland, is described. It is one of the most beautiful single, white lilacs easily recognizable by unusually large inflorescences, large flowers with variously directed acute or acuminate petals and by long-acuminate leaves. The plant is very healthy and blooms very profusely every year.

Key words: breeding, Kórnik, Oleaceae, ornamental shrub, *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Avalanche’, *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Miss Ellen Willmott’

The common lilac – *Syringa vulgaris* L. – belongs to the species represented in cultivation by especially numerous garden varieties. Due to mutations, spontaneous hybridisation or intentional crossing and selection, probably more than 2000 cultivars have been developed (Fiala 1988). Many of them are very distinctive, easy to recognise and remember, but there are also many cultivars which differ subtly from each other and are only distinguishable when they grow side by side. The problem with recognising numerous cultivars is often connected with their laconic descriptions. In most cases they are very short, limited to a few characteristics of flowers and inflorescences. Features of vegetative organs are unfairly passed over in diagnosis. They do not determine the ornamental value of cultivars but may help in their identification. It is also true in the case of the cultivar described below.



Fig. 1. Four-year-old specimen of *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Liliana’ grown from a sucker (photo J. Zieliński).

Ryc. 1. Czteroletni okaz *Syringa vulgaris* ‘Liliana’ otrzymany z odrośla (fot. J. Zieliński).



Fig. 2. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' at the height of its flowering (photo J. Zieliński).

Ryc. 2. *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' w pełni kwitnienia (fot. J. Zieliński).



Syringa vulgaris 'Liliana'
– a new cultivar name (figs. 1–8)

Shrub up to 3 m tall, profusely suckering due to subterranean rhizomes (fig. 1, 2). Young twigs green, glabrous. Bud scales green with narrow brown margins. Leaves light green, 11–13(–14.5) cm long, 6.5–10.5 cm broad, broadly ovate, broadly cuneate to shallowly cordate at the base, long-acuminate, with an apex 2–4(–5) cm long (fig. 3). Petioles 3–4 cm long. Inflorescence a panicle, conical to conical-ovoid (fig. 4, 5, 6), rather loose, up to 25–30(–33) cm long, soft to the touch, its axis minutely glandular, here and there visible between flowers. Panicles appearing at 1–4(–6) uppermost internodes of the stem. Flowers simple, white, greenish in bud (fig. 7A, B). Calyx green.

Fig. 3. Leaves of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' (photo M. Dziurla).

Ryc. 3. Liście *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' (fot. M. Dziurla).



Fig. 4. Inflorescence of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' (photo J. Zieliński).
Ryc. 4. Kwiatostany *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' (fot. J. Zieliński).



Fig. 6. Fragment of the inflorescence in close-up (photo J. Zieliński).
Ryc. 6. Fragment kwiatostanu w zbliżeniu (fot. J. Zieliński).



Fig. 5. Top of the inflorescence, visible buds with claw-like petals (photo J. Zieliński).
Ryc. 5. Wierzchołek wiechy, widoczne pączki z pazurkowatymi płatkami (fot. J. Zieliński).

Corolla tube 10–13 mm long. Petals (10–)12–18(–20) mm long, (6–)8–9(–11) mm broad, elliptic, all acute to acuminate at apex, very narrowly involute along the margins, variously directed, patent, ascending or some of them deflexed, slightly waved or twisted and usually turned up at the apex, surface of petals uneven, slightly shriveled, claw-like in bud. Anthers inserted 2–3 mm below mouth, not or scarcely visible. Fruits usually numerous.

'Liliana' is one of the most beautiful white-flowered lilac cultivars, easily recognizable by unusually large inflorescences, large simple flowers with variously directed acute or acuminate petals and by long-acuminate leaves. The shrub is vigorous, healthy and blooms very profusely every year. It usually produces numerous suckers (fig. 8), which may be troublesome, but they allow for quick and easy reproduction. Infructescence should be removed.

By the above mentioned characteristics *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana' is rather easy to distinguish from all known cultivars with simple white flowers. Superficially it looks similar to *Syringa vulgaris* 'Avalanche' (Fiala 1988: Plate 9), but our plant seems to differ from it by acute to acuminate petals. The lilac 'Avalanche' has never been cultivated in Kórnik Arboretum.

Syringa vulgaris 'Liliana' originated spontaneously in the Institute of Dendrology, Kórnik, in 1990. It appeared from one of the plants obtained during experiments on multiplication *in vitro* of the lilac 'Miss Ellen Willmott' (Skrzypczak 1992). It resembles the maternal plant by its long acuminate leaves, large panicles and pure white flowers.

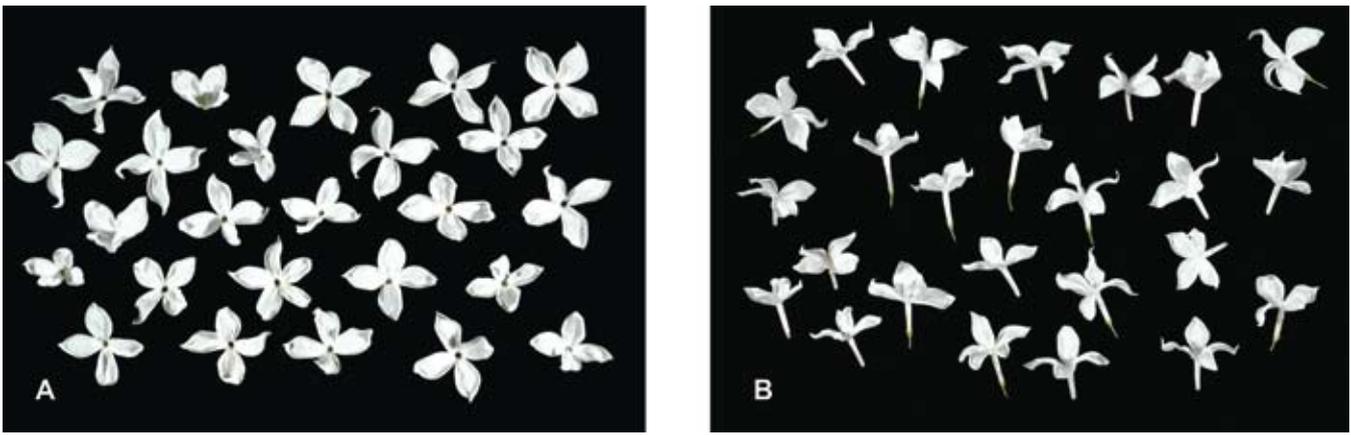


Fig. 7. Flowers of *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana', seen from above (A) and from the side (B) (photo M. Dziurla).

Ryc. 7. Kwiaty *Syringa vulgaris* 'Liliana', widziane z góry (A) i z boku (B) (fot. M. Dziurla).



Fig. 8. Numerous suckers from subterranean rhizomes (photo J. Zieliński).

Ryc. 8. Liczne odrośla z pędów podziemnych (fot. J. Zieliński).

The new cultivar is represented now by old maternal plants and many younger specimens growing in the Kórnik Arboretum. A few shrubs are also cultivated in local private gardens. Comparative herbarium material is deposited in the Herbarium of the Institute of Dendrology in Kórnik.

Liliana is the first name of the granddaughter of the first author.

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