

# North American Lily Society

## Research Committee

### G O A L S

1. To provide popular interpretation and summarization of research results for the members of N.A.L.S.

The gap between what is known from lily research, and what is being used by many NALS members is very wide, to put it mildly. A part of this gap is due to the difference of interests between scientists and amateurs, and can therefore not be bridged.

However, another part is due to lack of communication. The N.A.L.S. Yearbooks, and especially the last one, have made valuable contributions toward bridging the gap. If the content of original or highly scientific papers in the Yearbooks increased, we probably would get static from the membership for becoming too abstract.

Three further steps should be taken to close the communications gap: 1. The abstracting service should be extended to reach commercial and amateur members, as well as scientists (if it is to be published in the Quarterly Newsletter, this would be the case anyway) 2. The research committee should from time to time publish reviews of certain larger fields of lily research, such as "Lily Breeding" 3. The research committee should encourage and support educational exhibits at the annual meetings. Contrary to the suggestions of the long-range planning committee, we feel that the actual exhibit should be a matter for the local show committee.

2. To provide a contact point for lily researchers and the N.A.L.S.

While communications within N.A.L.S. are reasonably good, there is very little contact between N.A.L.S. and those widely dispersed scientists who are working with lilies. Also, contact among the scientists themselves is poor, and there is at present no focal point where lily research results are being brought together. Some lily research workers have difficulties obtaining rare species or cultivars, or sufficiently uniform lots of common cultivars, which are needed for research.

To help correct this situation, the research committee should maintain close contact with lily research workers, and should provide a focal point of exchange of information and material.

To implement this, the research committee should continue to run the abstracting service, which provides citations

and brief abstracts of recent scientific publications on lilies to research workers. While the format of this service has not been fully decided upon, the directors should decide whether it would be more desirable to publish this service a.) as an irregular mimeographed sheet, or b.) as part of the Quarterly Newsletter, or c.) as part of the N.A.L.S. Yearbook. Pros and cons are discussed in the annual report. It should be kept in mind that the usefulness of such a service is directly proportionate to the speed with which it can be carried out, and that the availability of the service to all scientists (including non-members, at least initially) will result in the best-possible feedback, which in turn will be extremely useful to N.A.L.S. members.

No formal organization is needed for the exchange of lily materials; the research committee should refrain from actually handling bulbs or seeds, but should concentrate instead in bringing together the interested parties.

3. To facilitate contact between individual members and sources of research information

Most older N.A.L.S. members know where to find the research information they need for their own lily work. Many new members apparently do not. The research committee should provide such information on an individual basis wherever possible, not necessarily by answering inquiries, but by bringing members in contact with the appropriate source of information, be it a book, a library, a researcher, or a commercial company.

4. To stimulate, in any way possible, the initiation of research programmes in fields where an urgent need exists

N.A.L.S. funds for direct support of research are extremely small, and are likely to remain so in the near future. They do not permit direct support of complete programmes, or of graduate students. However, several non-member correspondents have independently indicated that even small sums or donations of materials can be extremely important, as they indicate to administrators that a tangible interest in lily research exists. As we cannot claim that the lily industry is indispensable to the nation's survival, or of tremendous economic importance, this demonstration of public interest and our offer of cooperation are the best means of getting research initiated or continued. No firm rules can be laid down at this time regarding the principles of support of certain programmes, and it is unlikely that such rules can ever be developed. A certain framework should be laid down when the details of the Research Fund are worked out.

The legal details for the establishment of the Research Fund should be defined as soon as possible, and decisions

should be made by the Directors regarding the composition of the governing body, and regarding the way in which donations to the fund are going to be used - by distribution of the principal, or of the interest only.

5. To organize technical talks and symposia, if warranted

The N.A.L.S. should definitely not become a scientific organization, but should retain its broad amateur base and outlook. The society should therefore not organize annual exclusive scientific meetings. However, many members have indicated that they would like to meet some of the scientists working on lily research, and to be able to get answers to specific questions. Also, several scientists indicated that they would be interested in participating in technical sessions. The success of these sessions would partly depend on the attendance of a fair number of scientists, who would then not only contribute to the quality of our meetings, but would also gain from the professional contacts. Since these scientists would not have sufficient funds to attend annually, technical sessions should be held at larger intervals only.

6. To preserve rare species, forms and cultivars of Lilium

The need to preserve rare species and subspecies, as well as some older varieties which are disappearing from the trade, is obvious. This same problem is confronting most horticultural associations. N.A.L.S. would not gain from establishing a separate organization, which of necessity would be costly, and which would be used only occasionally. The committee should continue to impress the appropriate government agencies with the need to include these species and cultivars in their collections and germ plasm banks, and to offer our cooperation in this venture. The success of this project will depend not so much on formal organization as on constant prodding.

7. The No-nos

The following suggestions were received, were discussed informally, but were rejected for the reasons stated:

Establishment of a permanent bulb and seed collection; see # 6

Award for outstanding research; rejected because a. we have too many awards already b. judging would be extremely difficult, as results from vastly different lines of research would have to be compared c. lily research is so diversified that the desired stimulation - by - competition would likely not materialize

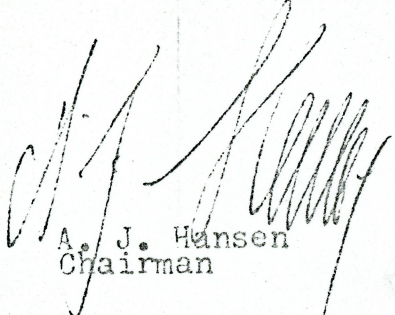
Establishment of a lily breeders co-op; several such organizations, which are partly information-sharing coops, and partly gene-exchange coops, exist in the ornamentals and vegetable industry. Some are carried by government institutions

while others derive considerable impetus from private industry. No such groups exist in the field of lily cultivation, except maybe among Easter lily growers. Also, the function of such coops is partly carried out through our round robins and the abstract service. However, the research committee should assist anybody who may want to start such a coop on his own.

#### 8. Composition of the research committee

As outlined above, one of the main functions of the committee should be to maintain contact between research-interested people of the various groups which make up the N.A.L.S., and between the society and non-member scientists who are working with lilies. The committee should therefore have a broad base, and should have at least one member from the scientific community, from industry, and from the amateur ranks.

Summerland, B.C.  
July 1, 1971



A. J. Hansen  
Chairman