

# JOHN INNES HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTION

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Telephone: LIBERTY 3645

24th. January 1940.

Dear Professor,

I have <sup>s</sup>consulted Lawrence about <sup>your</sup> request for Lythrums. The situation is not very clear at the moment as we are changing over from our usual run of crops to a rather different one, as a result of the war. This means that (i) some of the houses are out of commission and even more will be out as time goes on (ii) we cannot predict what the room situation will be during the next few months as we have no previous experience to guide us. The labour shortage, due to our gardeners being conscripted, will probably not happen for the next two months.

However, we thought that the best thing to do would be for us to try to grow the <sup>400</sup> seedlings for you, but with the understanding that, in the event of space shortage, these Lythrums must give priority to the other crops. This would most probably mean that they might have to go into a place colder than one would normally give them, with a consequent check. It does not seem likely that they would have to be discarded altogether. If you are willing to let them take pot luck in this way, would you please send the seed as soon as possible as they should be in by now for this year's flowering?

The 1000 Lythrums which are to be <sup>grown</sup> and flowered here are doing quite nicely though, some families were short and I had to juggle the numbers a bit. <sup>To make them up.</sup> They are, of course, unaffected by what I say above. It is only the extra 400 seedlings which you want for planting out at Harpenden that will have to take their chance.

I was thinking of coming to visit the Galton Lab. one day soon. I have one or two little problems on which I should like your advice. <sup>A</sup> ~~Some~~ day in the week would be best for me if that would suit you. Any weak day during the next fortnight would do. Could you let me know if it will be alright from your point of view.

Yours sincerely,

*H. Innes*

January 24, 1940

Dear Mather,

Many thanks for your letter. I will have some of the seed from two more plants sent at once, as this will be at least a useful second string to what Fabergé is trying to do here.

In the event of there<sup>ir</sup> having to be moved to a quite unheated house, they might, of course, be moved at once to Rothamsted, with the advantage of clearing your space, and keeping us more fully informed of what there was coming on in the different progenies.

It is really good of you to see what further help you at Merton will be able to give.

Apart from next Monday, I expect to be here any day, including Saturdays and Sundays, and my wife and I would be delighted if you could come in to lunch - and better still, if you could bring Mrs Mather.

Yours sincerely,