

Large Shrub (8—15')
Deciduous
Introduced
Map #46

Common Lilac
(Syrina vulgaris)
Family: *Oleaceae*



Leaves: rounded, curled with prominent mid-vein.

Buds: opposite, plump and paired at the terminals.

Stems: stout, appearing 4-sided, lustrous brown with small raised lenticels.

Bark: insignificant.

Flowers: lilac, extremely fragrant, 4-8" long clusters at the terminals of last year's growth in early to mid May.

Fruits: sporadic, small, brown, dry capsules that split open.

Habit: upright, leggy, irregular outline thinning out with age to be devoid of lower limbs except for the main, gnarly stems.

Culture: full sun and loamy, moist soil preferred. Remove faded flowers when possible. Renewal prune regularly after flowering to continue to stimulate new suckers to arise from roots. Old, misshapen plants may be totally rejuvenated in early spring. Powdery mildew is severe in most years. Also bacterial wilt, lilac scale and lilac borer are potential problems. Flowering may diminish or cease due to low light, overfertilization and early spring pruning.

Cultivars: there are over 400 cultivars and possibly 900 clones. Refer to UWEX publication A3825 "Lilacs for Cold Climates".

Related species: Hyacinth-flowered Lilac (*S. x hyacinthiflora*); Chinese Lilac (*S. chinensis*); Preston Lilac (*S. prestoniae*); Pekin Lilac (*S. pekinensis*); *French hybrid lilacs*.



'Katherine Havemeyer'



'Sensation'
(a picotee flower)



'President Lincoln'
(pure blue, single flowers)



'Charles Joly'



'President Grevy'
(pure blue, double flowers)



'Miss Ellen Willmot'
(double white flowers)

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