

Botanical Name: Syringa vulgaris

Common Name: Common lilac, Eastern lilac

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character deciduous

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape vigorous growing, upright, with open branch structure in youth - becoming more full and rounded with age; many cultivars available

Height 5'-10' (20') Spread equal Growth Rate moderate-rapid

Environment:

Exposure outdoors prefers full sun but can tolerate considerable shade; best in areas with strong climate changes

Soil thrives in alkaline soils; add lime if soil strongly acidic

Hardiness hardy (zones 1-12, 14-16, 18-23); requires cold for best flowering

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, broadly ovate with somewhat undulating margins; 2"-4" long, medium green, not shiny; 2-ranked on stem

Flowers many colors, from white-pink-lavender-blue; in dense terminal raceme-like clusters to 8"-10" long; very fragrant; April-June

Fruit tiny drupe

Propagation: hardwood cuttings

Usage: widely used as large-scale fillers or background shrubs in temperate-climate theme gardens for their durability, profuse flower display in Spring, and distinctive fragrance; good also for screening or informal background hedges

Landscape Care:

Watering prefers regular; can tolerate considerable drought after established

Fertilizing apply a balanced fertilizer twice annually; avoid high nitrogen

Pruning develop overall shape desired during first 2-4 years; selectively thin out oldest wood in subsequent years

Pests/Diseases relatively free - leaf spot, powdery mildew, scale and stem borer

Special Conditions may not produce heavy bloom in mild-winter areas

Origin: Southeast Europe Family: Oleaceae