

Late Lilac



# Late Lilac (*Syringa villosa*)

## General Description

A dense tall shrub with stout ascending branches. This species blooms later than the common lilac. Lavender-pinkish flowers fade to gray-white. Does not sucker.

### Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Buds are opposite.

Bud Color - Brown.

Bud Size - 1/8 to 1/2 inch.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, broad-elliptic to oblong.

Leaf Margins - Entire.

Leaf Surface - Usually pubescent near the midrib, rarely glabrous, veins impressed.

Leaf Length - 3 to 7 inches.

Leaf Width - 1½ to 4 inches.

Leaf Color - Medium green, glaucescent beneath.

### Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Slightly fragrant, borne in large terminal panicles.

Flower Color - Rosy-lilac to white, fade quickly.

Fruit Type - Woody capsule.

Fruit Color - Smooth, brown.

### Form

Growth Habit - Upright forming an oval to rounded outline.

Texture - Coarse, summer; coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 6 to 10 feet.

Crown Width - 5 to 10 feet.

Bark Color - Older bark is grayish-brown.

Root System - Shallow, dense.

## Environmental Requirements

### Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C.

### Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

### Water

Less drought tolerant than common lilac. Performed well in drought of late 1980s. Does not withstand ponding.

### Light

Full sun.

## Uses

### Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium to tall shrub for farmstead windbreaks and highway beautification.

### Wildlife

Little value for fruit or browse, may be of value for nesting by songbirds.

### Agroforestry Products

Floral design - Semi-fragrant cutflowers.

### Urban/Recreational

Good for shelter, shrub borders, groups or masses in parks and screen plantings.

## Cultivated Varieties

Preston Lilacs (*Syringa x prestoniae*) - Hybrid crosses between Late Lilac (*S. villosa*) and Nodding Lilac (*S. reflexa*). Three of the best cultivars are:

James MacFarlane Lilac (*S. x prestoniae* 'James MacFarlane')

Minuet Lilac (*S. x prestoniae* 'Minuet')

Miss Canada Lilac (*S. x prestoniae* 'Miss Canada')

## Related Species

Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Japanese Tree Lilac (*S. reticulata*) - Tall, tree-like species, large creamy-white panicles.

Pekin Lilac (*S. pekinensis*) - Similar to Japanese Tree Lilac. Has attractive coppery, exfoliating bark.

## Pests

Potential disease pests include several types of leaf spots and blights; insect pests include lilac borer, caterpillars, scales and leaf miners. Extracts from *Syringa* species are toxic to various insect pests.