

## Lilac shrub (*Syringa vulgaris*)

The Lilac is a highly fragrant, spring-flowering shrub or small tree. There are hundreds of cultivars available including single and double flowers of various colors including white, cream, rose, magenta, pinkish-purple, lavender, and purple.

The Lilac grows to about 15' tall with a spread up to about 12'. It grows rapidly to fill its space. It makes excellent cut flowers but after its spectacular mid to late spring bloom, the shrub is of little interest in the landscape with its leggy branches and leaves that are susceptible to powdery mildew.

The Lilac does best in cold winter climates as they require a long period of winter chill for the buds to mature. Late frost will sometimes kill the buds, so it is best suited in a protected location. It is tolerant of different soil types but does not do well in soil that is highly acidic or poorly drained.