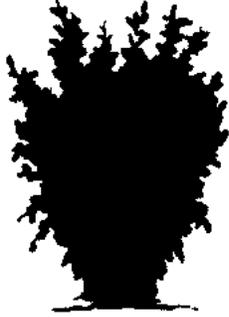


Syringa vulgaris - Common Lilac (*Oleaceae*)

Syringa vulgaris is a common midwestern shrub with showy and highly fragrant May inflorescences. Common Lilac suffers from susceptibility to powdery mildew on the leaves by autumn that detract from its overall appeal.

FEATURES

Form



- medium to large shrub
- to 10' tall x 10' wide
- vase shaped to upright oval, becoming spreading with age
- medium rate

Culture

- full sun to partial shade
- adaptable to various soils and moderately stressful conditions
- needs a well-drained site

-moderate availability; B&B or container; much of the mainstream industry is growing species and hybrids that are less susceptible to powdery mildew

Foliage

- dark green
- deciduous
- opposite
- narrow ovate to lanceolate
- glabrous, entire, and shiny
- often infested with powdery mildew by autumn



-autumn color green to yellowish green

Flowers

-most are purple, but white and pink-violet forms exist

- 6" erect to pendulous showy inflorescences, often arising in pairs from the terminal buds
- mostly single-flowering forms
- extremely fragrant



-extremely fragrant

Fruits

- winter persistent brown capsules on a fruiting stalk
- not ornamental

Twigs

- light brown to brown-gray
- lightly lenticeled
- buds moderately sized and tan

Trunk

- multi-stemmed or multi-trunked
- light brown and slightly furrowed

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Function

- border, entranceway, or specimen shrub
- in rows or groups where ample space is provided

Texture

- medium in foliage and when bare

Assets

- showy fragrant flowers in mid-May
- cold hardiness

Liabilities

- foliage infested with powdery mildew in late summer and autumn
- poor autumn color; becoming large and spreading with age
- suckering habit
- insect prone

Habitat

- Zones 3 to 5, depending on source
- Native to Southern Europe

SELECTIONS

Alternates

- shrubs with showy mid-spring inflorescences
- shrubs with very fragrant flowers (e.g. *Viburnum carlesii*)

Variants

- bred and selected primarily for variation in floral color; there are both single- and double-flowered forms; over 1000 cultivars have been described! Some examples of cultivars (some are probably hybrids of some kind or another)

-Single flower types:

- 'Massena' - deep reddish purple flowers
- 'Maud Notcutt' - pure white flowers
- 'Sensation' - purplish red florets with white margins

-Double flower types:

- 'Mrs. Edward Harding' - red purple flowers, borne late
- 'Mme. Lemoine' - flowers start creamy yellow and turn white
- 'Président Grévy' - lilac-blue flowers