



## LILAC

*Syringa vulgaris*

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### **Native Range**

Lilac is native to southeast Europe and probably has been cultivated since the mid-1500's. It's not native to Kansas.

### **Mature Size**

In Kansas it grows to a height of 8 to 12 feet with a spread of 6 to 10 feet.

### **Growth Rate**

Often doesn't grow much the first year or two, but once established, it grows at about 12 to 18 inches per year.

### **Leaves, Stems and Fruit**

Leaves are borne two at a location on opposite sides of the twig. They are gray-green to dark blue-green. Fruit is a dry capsule and not especially attractive. It is an attractive plant with large fragrant clusters of purple blossoms.

### **Growth Rate**

Slow to moderate in growth rate.

### **Use**

#### Windbreaks

Lilacs form a good shrub row in windbreaks and in single row screens. Its low, dense growth provides good ground level wind protection. Blossoms add beauty to plantings.

#### Wildlife Habitat

Lilac is generally under-rated for use in wildlife habitat. Its suckers provide quality cover for numerous birds and animals. The fruit, however, has little benefit for wildlife.

### **Adaptation**

Statewide.

### **Soil**

Lilac is planted throughout Kansas on a wide range of soils. It tolerates both extreme dry and wet conditions reasonably well. Lilac is very drought tolerant. It is very tough and long-lived.

**Spacing**

Lilac is spaced 4 to 6 feet apart.

**Culture**

One-year-old, bare-root seedlings (10 to 14 inches tall) are used in conservation plantings. Sucker sprouts produced from roots allow the plant to slowly increase in diameter. During the establishment period, supplemental watering and control of competing vegetation will aid survival and early growth.

**Pests**

Lilac usually continues to function even if common pests, such as lilac borer, powdery mildew and oystershell scale are not controlled.