

F2172 (July 2024)

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# North Dakota Tree Selector

## General

**Scientific Name:** *Syringa vulgaris***Family:** Oleaceae (Olive)**Hardiness:** Zone 2**Leaves:** Deciduous**Plant Type:** Shrub

## Growth

**Rate:** Medium**Mature Height:** >7'**Longevity:** Long**Power Line:** Yes

## Ornamental

**Flowers:** Purple to white**Fruit:** Tan**Fall Color:** n/a

## Common Lilac

### Description

Best known for its spring display of purple to white fragrant flowers, the common lilac is a medium to large shrub that spreads via suckers. Native to Europe.

### Preferences

**Light:** Full sun.**Water:** Does not stand ponding water.**Soil:** Adapted to a wide variety of soils.

### Comments

Powdery mildew is a prevalent issue with common lilac but does little permanent damage to the shrub.

Hundreds of cultivated varieties are available of various heights with flower colors ranging from white to cream to rose, lavender to purple. Shrubs can also be single or double flowered and re-blooming varieties are also available. Several varieties are also grafted on standards as "tree lilacs."

Lilacs should be pruned shortly after blooming, as pruning later in the year reduces or halts next year's bloom. Lilacs can be pruned to maintain a pleasing shape and or to control size. They also benefit from rejuvenation pruning on older bushes to remove dead or old wood.



Credits: Tree selector website, North Dakota Tree Handbook.