

F2173 (July 2024)

Joseph Zeleznik, Ph.D., Extension Forester

North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Syringa pekinensis***Family:** Oleaceae (Olive)**Hardiness:** Zone 3**Leaves:** Deciduous**Plant Type:** Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium**Mature Height:** <25'**Longevity:** Long**Power Line:** Yes

Ornamental

Flowers: Cream to white**Fruit:** Tan**Fall Color:** Yellow

Pekin Lilac

Description

Pekin lilac is a small tree or tall shrub that can be multi-stemmed, though it is non-suckering. The large, creamy white, fragrant flower clusters appear in mid-June. Pekin lilac has good drought tolerance once it is established, but establishment may be difficult on dry soils. The shiny/glossy cherry-like bark on older trees is a feature that adds visual interest to the landscape.

Preferences

Light: Full sun.**Water:** Medium water needs.**Soil:** Adapted to a wide variety of soils.

Comments

Good tolerance for urban conditions. Prune after blooming and remove faded blooms before seed set when possible.

The variety Copper Curls™ was selected for its coppery-orange, peeling bark and large flower clusters. Copper Curls™ is an NDSU release and is hardy to Zone 3.



Credits: Tree selector website, North Dakota Tree Handbook.