

2025 Lilac Descriptions by Color

For explanation of color/flower class, see bottom of this list.

COLOR: WHITE



Syringa Vulgaris
Common White

Height and width: 12-15' tall, 8-12' wide
Habit: Deciduous, upright
Originated By: Native to Balkans/SE Europe
Foliage: Blue/Green
Color Class/Flowers: I/S, White
Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Hardy, vigorous white version of the "old fashioned lilac". This is perfect for an informal hedge or screen. Blue-green fall foliage.



Syringa vulgaris
'Krasavitsa Moskvj'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 10-12' tall and 8' wide
Originated by: Leonid A. Kolesnikov 1947
Habit: Deciduous, upright
Foliage: Green
Color Class/Flowers: I/D
Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Name is Russian for trade designation: BEAUTY OF MOSCOW. Cultivar name registered 1970'; cultivar name established and accepted. Forcing lilac in Netherlands. Pinkish lilac buds open to very pale lavender tint on white. Abundant panicles on a vigorous plant. It is stunning in bloom. Insignificant fall foliage.

COLOR: BLUE



Syringa vulgaris
'Président Grévy'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 10-12' tall and 8' wide

Originated by: Lemoine Nursery 1886

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: III/D, blue

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Named for Francois Paul Jules Grévy (1807-1891), French statesman, president of France (1879-1887). Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit 1892. This vigorous, upright grower produces immense panicles of starchy, double lilac-blue florets. Insignificant fall foliage. Cultivar presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted.



Syringa vulgaris
'President Lincoln'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 8-10' tall and 10' wide

Originated by: John Dunbar 1916

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Foliage: Rich green

Color Class/Flowers: III/S, blue

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Named for Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), 16th president of the USA. An open-pollinated seedling of the old 'Alba Virginalis' (pre-1841). Medium blue, tall, leafy grower with large trusses and captivating fragrance. **This** mildew resistant French hybrid is a good grower that produces basal shoots readily. Small tubular flowers grow in large, dense conical-shaped clusters. Cultivar name presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted.

COLOR: MAGENTA-PURPLE



Syringa xhyacinthiflora

'Declaration'

Zones: 4-7

Height and width: 6-8' tall and 6-7' spread

Originated by: Egolf & Pooler 2006

Habit: Deciduous, upright, rounded

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: VI-VII/S, magenta purple

Bloom Time: Early

Fragrant

Notable Information: The name refers to the U. S. Declaration of Independence, 4 July 1776. While similar to 'Old Glory', the cultivar does not have red- and purple-tinged leaves. Cultivar name registered 2007; name established and accepted.

COLOR: PINK



Syringa (Pubescents Series)

'Bailbelle'

Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 5-6 'tall and 4-5' spread

Originated by: Neal S. Holland, pre 1999

Habit: Deciduous, upright, rounded

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: V/S, pinkish

Bloom Time: Late

Fragrant

Notable Information: First introduction in Bailey's FAIRYTALE SERIES™. Marketed as TINKERBELLE®. In late spring luscious wine-red flower buds open into deep pink blossoms with a pleasing, spicy fragrance. Name established and accepted. Statutory registration.



Syringa pubescens subsp. patula

'Pink Flower Select'

Zones 3-8

Height and width: 4-5' tall and 4-5' wide (dwarf)

Cultivated by: Yanny

Habit: Deciduous, rounded, dense

Foliage: Dark Green

Color Class/Flowers: V/S, Pink

Bloom Time: Early Summer

Notable Information: Marketed in the US as DREAM CLOUD™. Terrific dwarf form for foundation use or grouped to form a showy hedge. Very hardy disease resistant foliage. Very fragrant bloom. Rich, purple fall foliage. Cultivar name established.

Color: PINKISH PURPLE



Syringa pubescens, subsp *pubescens*
'Palibin'

Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 4-5' tall and 6-8' spread

Originated by: Unknown, pre 1908

Habit: Deciduous, compact, low spreading

Foliage: Dark green, small, glossy

Color Class/Flowers: V-VII/S, pinkish purple

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Named for Ivan Vladimirovich Palibin, 1872-1949, Russian botanist. Awards: RHS Award of Merit 1984; RHS Award of Merit 1983. A small-leaved lilac, bearing many panicles of purple flowers at an early age. Reddish-bronze fall foliage. Excellent low growing hedge. Cultivar name registered 1980; name established and accepted.



Syringa xchinensis

'Saugeana'

Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 10-12' tall and 5-10' spread

Originated by: Pierre Saugé, circa 1820

Habit: Deciduous, broad spreading, round top

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: V-VII/S, pinkish purple

Bloom Time: Midseason

Fragrant

Notable information: Named for the originator, Pierre Saugé, 1757-1835, florist, 1807-1835, at 13 rue de la Santé, Paris, France. Most likely named by Jacques Varin, head of the Jardin des plantes at Rouen, the garden where *S. xchinensis* originated. Cultivar name presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted.



Syringa Meyeri

Dwarf Korean Lilac - Tree Form

Zones 4-7

Height and width: 8' tall x 5-6" wide (dwarf)

Cultivated by: Unknown

Habit: Deciduous, rounded

Foliage: Deep Green, small, glossy

Color Class/Flowers: V-VII/S, pinkish purple

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: This tree form has the same fine features of the shrub-form Dwarf Korean. It makes an excellent globe for accent or interest in the landscape. This cultivar is grafted on a 3' or 4' standard.

COLOR: PURPLE



Syringa vulgaris
Common Purple
Zones: 4-7

Height and width: 12-15' tall and 8-12' spread
Originated by: Native to Balkans, SE Europe
Habit: Deciduous, upright, vase-shaped
Foliage: Blue Green
Color Class/Flowers: VII/S, purple
Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Extremely fragrant. This is perfect for an informal hedge or screen. Also known as the "old-fashioned" lilac. Blue-green fall foliage.



Syringa vulgaris
'Charles Joly'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 10-12' tall, 6-8' wide
Habit: Deciduous, upright
Originated by: Lemoine Nursery, 1896
Foliage: Green
Color Class/Flowers: VII/D Purple
Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Named for Victor Charles Joly, 1818-1902, French physician, hotelier, and writer on horticultural subjects. Awards: RHS Award of Garden Merit 1993. Cultivar name presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted.



Syringa (Villosae Group) *S. ×prestoniae*
'Donald Wyman'
Zones: 4-7

Height and width: 8-10' tall and 4-10' spread
Originated by: Frank L. Skinner 1944
Habit: Deciduous, upright, dense
Foliage: Dark Green
Color Class/Flowers: VII/S, purple
Bloom Time: Late

Notable Information: Panicles of purple buds opening to single, purple flowers. Blooms on large pyramidal spikes later than Common Lilac. Excellent specimen or hedge plant. Spicy scent. Insignificant fall foliage. Named for Donald Wyman (1904-1970), horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University (1935-1970) Jamaica Plain, MA. Cultivar presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted.



Syringa vulgaris
'Yankee Doodle'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 8' tall and 8' wide (semi-dwarf)

Originated by: John L. Fiala 1985

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: VII/S, dark purple

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Named for a popular song of the American Revolution era, 1770-1782. One of the deepest and darkest of the purple; profuse bloomer with large clusters of single, very large flowers. Insignificant fall foliage. Name established and accepted.

COLOR: PURPLE and WHITE



Syringa vulgaris
'Sensation'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 8-10' tall and 8-12' wide

Cultivation: by Eveleens Maarse 1938

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Foliage: Blue-green

Color Class/Flowers: VII & I/S, deep purple and white

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: Referring to being a sensation, this mutation lilac was the first bicolor ever selected. Awards: First Class Certificate 1938 (KMPT). Medium blue, tall, leafy grower with large trusses and captivating fragrance. This mildew resistant French hybrid is a good grower. Small tubular flowers grow in large, dense conical-shaped clusters. Flowers tend to be hidden under its foliage. Cultivar name presumed established 1953; name established and accepted. Forcing cultivar in the Netherlands.

COLOR: VIOLET



Syringa x hyacinthiflora
'Bailbridget'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 6-8' tall, 5-7' wide

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Originated by: Don Sellinger 2007

Foliage: Violet-Green

Color Class/Flowers: II/D Violet

Bloom Time: Late

Notable Information: Marketed in the US by Bailey Nurseries as VIRTUAL VIOLET®. Shiny new violet leaves turn to emerald green on purple stems. Violet flowers emerge from deep fuschia buds on the end of stems and keep color well into summer. Fragrant. Cultivar name established and accepted.



Syringa (Pubescentes Series)

'Jeflady'

Zones: 2-7

Height and width: 4-5' tall, 4-5' wide

Habit: Deciduous, rounded

Originated by: Durand & Donald, 2016

Foliage: Green

Color Class/Flowers: S II, Violet

Bloom Time: Midseason

Notable Information: syn - LITTLE LADY™. Dark pink buds open to violet flowers. Very Fragrant. Cultivar name established and accepted.



Syringa xhyacinthiflora

'Pocahontas'

Zones: 2-7

Height and width:

10-12' tall and 10-12' wide

Originated by: Frank L. Skinner 1935

Habit: Deciduous, upright

Foliage: Dark green

Color Class/Flowers: II/S, violet

Bloom Time: Early

Notable Information: Deep maroon-purple buds open to single deep violet florets. A profuse bloomer, covering plant with purple blossoms in spring before French hybrid lilacs. Noted for exceptional hardiness and vigor.. Very fragrant. Insignificant fall foliage. Named for Pocahontas (ca 1595-1617), an Indian princess, daughter of Powhatan, chief of the Algonquian Indians in the Tidewater region of Virginia, USA. Cultivar name presumed registered 1953; Name established and accepted. Forcing cultivar in the Netherlands.

COLOR: VIOLET-PURPLE



Syringa vulgaris
'Andenken an Ludwig Spaeth'
Zones: 3-7

Height and width: 10-12' tall, 6-8' wide
Habit: Deciduous, upright
Originated by: Franz L. Späth, 1883
Foliage: Green
Flowers: II-VII/S Violet-Purple
Bloom Time: Midseason
Fragrant

Notable Information: Marketed in North America as Ludwig Spaeth. Named for Johann Ludwig Carl Späeth, 1793-1883; German nurseryman, Berlin. Awards: Certificate of Merit 1966 (KMTP); RHS Aware of Garden Merit 1983. Cultivar name presumed registered 1953; name established and accepted. Forcing cultivar in the Netherlands. Lightly fragrant.

1953 Wister Color Code

ABBREVIATIONS: S - Single (simple) flowers D - Double flowers

COLORS

I	White
II	Violet
III	Blue & Bluish
IV	Lilac
V	Pink & Pinkish
VI	Magenta
VII	Purple

& for bicolor [e.g. VII & I for purple and white]

/ - for color combinations [e.g. III/VII for bluish-purple, V-VI for pinkish to magenta]

* cultivar with variegated and/or golden foliage

? information incomplete

Cultivar names appearing in bold type have been registered