Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac

Syringa vulgaris 'Frederick Law Olmsted'



Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 9 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Common Lilac

Group/Class: French Hybrid Lilac

Description:

A magnificent spring blooming shrub featuring intensely fragrant white flowers in upright panicles; upright, multi-stemmed habit, very hardy, tends to sucker, ideal for screening; full sun and well-drained soil, allow room for air movement

Ornamental Features

Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac features showy panicles of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive creamy white flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The heart-shaped leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac is a multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering
- Invasive
- Insects

Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Frederick Law Olmsted Lilac will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 9 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 3 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.