Lilac, Charles Joly

Syringa vulgaris 'Charles Joly'

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2a

Other Names: Common Lilac

Group/Class: French Hybrid Lilac

Description:

Considered among the very best, this spring blooming lilac features fragrant double purple-red flowers in upright panicles; upright, multi-stemmed habit, tends to sucker, ideal for screening; full sun and well-drained soil, allow room for air movement

Ornamental Features

Lilac, Charles Joly features showy panicles of fragrant double fuchsia flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring, which emerge from distinctive deep purple flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has bluish-green deciduous foliage. The heart-shaped leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Lilac, Charles Joly 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.



Lilac, Charles Joly flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Lilac, Charles Joly in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This shrub will require occasional maintenance 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 bees and 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

Lilac, Charles Joly is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Lilac, Charles Joly will grow to be about 12 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. To help this plant achive its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils. 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.

Special Attributes

Prune within 2 weeks after blooming is done, so you will get flowers next year.