Lilac, Congo

Syringa vulgaris 'Congo'



Lilac, Congo flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 12 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Common Lilac

Group/Class: French Hybrid Lilac

Description:

A breathtaking spring blooming shrub featuring extremely fragrant blooms that emerge red and progress to purple; upright, compact habit, very hardy, tends to sucker, ideal as a low screen; full sun and well-drained soil, allow room for air movement

Ornamental Features

Lilac, Congo features showy panicles of fragrant red flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has green deciduous foliage. The heart-shaped leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Lilac, Congo 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

Lilac, Congo is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Lilac, Congo 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 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.