

## Common lilac

### *Syringa vulgaris*

#### Description

Used as farmstead windbreaks. Introduced as an ornamental.

#### Habit

Medium to large hardy shrub with stout, oval or irregular rounded crown; shallow - dense root system.

#### Leaves

Opposite, green to brownish-purple with 3 pairs of scales; sessile, subglobose, large, 1/4-1/2 in long, 1 1/2-3 1/2 in wide, simple, cordate, entire, smooth margins, smooth and leathery surface.

#### Stems

Stout; angled (almost 4 sided) or ridged; lustrous brown; glabrous; numerous raised lenticels; leaf scars raised.

#### Flowers

Fragrant, borne in large terminal panicles (4-8 in long), showy, singles and doubles, white to





purple in color.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Fruit is a woody capsule, brown in color, flat  
tannish seeds.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Grows well in a wide array of soils.

### **Reproduction**

Cuttings and by seeds.

### **Similar**

Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Landscape fabric; tearing of plant suckers; digging, making sure to completely remove the root system; effectively controlled by any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or naphthaleneacetate.

### **Credits**

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