

F2228 (July 2024)

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North Dakota Tree Selector

General

Scientific Name: *Syringa reticulata*

Family: Oleaceae (Olive)

Hardiness: Zone 3

Leaves: Deciduous

Plant Type: Tree

Growth

Rate: Medium

Mature Height: <25'

Longevity: Medium

Power Line: No

Ornamental

Flowers: Cream to white

Fruit: Brown capsules

Fall Color: n/a

Japanese Tree Lilac

Description

A very large shrub or small tree with stiff, spreading branches developing a somewhat oval-rounded to vase-shaped crown. Large showy flowers. Attractive winter fruit display. The largest tree in North Dakota is 22 feet tall with a canopy spread of 20 feet.

Preferences

Light: Full sun for best flowering.

Water: Medium water use.

Soil: Prefers loose, well drained soils, somewhat pH adaptable and tolerates high pH.

Comments

Possibly the most trouble-free lilac available. Japanese tree lilacs make excellent specimen plants, street trees, works in groups and near buildings. Resistant to powdery mildew.

Several cultivars are available including:

- 'Chantilly Lace' – Variegated variety with cream leaf edges.
- 'Ivory Silk' – One of the older varieties, but still one of the best. A heavy bloomer at a young age.
- Ivory Pillar™ – An upright form that has performed well in ND trials, even in the drier western North Dakota sites.



Credits: North Dakota Tree Selector Website, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants 6th edition.