

# Lilac (purple)

*Syringe vulgaris*

## What to look for

Clusters of light purple flowers

Set amongst smooth, dark green, heart-shaped leaves

Wonderful scent

## Where found

Open, well-drained, unshaded places. Very popular with gardeners. Survives severe cold and thrives in a frost

## When to look

Flowers from April through June

## Not to be confused with

*Buddleia davidii*, the 'butterfly bush', which is also called 'summer lilac'



### Did you know?

Lilac was introduced into European gardens at the end of the sixteenth century from Ottoman gardens - not through botanists exploring the Balkan habitats of *Syringa vulgaris*

It is a large deciduous shrub or multi-stemmed small tree, growing to 6–7 m high, producing secondary shoots or 'suckers' around the base

In Greek myth, the nymph *Syrinx* caught the eye of the god *Pan*, who chased her until she became exhausted. To hide from the amorous nature god, *Syrinx* turned herself into a lilac bush

In Russia, cradling a newborn baby beneath a lilac bush was said to give it wisdom

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