



Project BudBurst

A National Phenology Network Field Campaign for Citizen Scientists



www.budburst.org

Common Name: Lilac

Scientific Name: *Syringa vulgaris*

Plant Family: Oleaceae

Identifying Characteristics:

Size: This shrub grows up to 2.5 to 4.5 m (8 to 15 ft) high and 1.8 to 3.5 m (6 to 12 ft) wide.

Leaves: Smooth and heart-shaped, opposite arranged leaves. They are 5 to 12.5 cm (2 to 5 in) long and dark green in color.

Flowers: The small, fragrant, showy, purple flowers grow in clusters 10 to 20 cm (4 to 8 in) long. The exact color differs per variety.

Bark: Light-gray and smooth with small, raised bumps and raised leaf scars

Habitat: As a non-native garden shrub, Lilac bushes only grow where they have been planted, such as in parks and gardens.

Bloom time: Late spring

Information sources:

USA-National Phenology Network

(www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geography/npn/pponder/index.html)

Plant Watch Canada

(www.naturewatch.ca/english/plantwatch/species_details.asp?species=15)

Uconn Plant Database

(www.hort.uconn.edu/plants/s/syrvul/syrvul1.html)

Did you know? As it originates from Europe, Common purple lilac was commonly imported by homesick settlers. Bushes still can be seen thriving near abandoned pioneer homesteads.



Photograph by Prof. Mark D. Schwartz, Dept. of Geography, UWM-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

Phenological observation:

Budburst/First Leaf, Full Leaf, First Flower, Full Flower, End of Flower

Distribution Area:

