

Japanese Lilac Tree (*Syringa reticulata*)

Identification:

Japanese Lilac Tree's are larger than shrub lilacs and bloom small creamy-white flowers that form large clusters in early September. The tree is deciduous, dropping its leaves in the fall, that grows to be a small or medium sized tree. They can range from 15 feet to 40 feet in height and reach 15 to 30 feet in width. Leaves are opposite and simple, growing to be 2 to 5 inches long. The base of the leaf is rounded with the whole leaf a dark green color that appears in early spring. The stems are gray-brown in color, shiny, and have horizontal lenticels. The lenticels on the trunk allow for gas exchange, similar to cherry tree bark. The stems and branches are stiff, maintaining an erect stance. The fruit and seeds appear as tan, two celled, 4 to 6 inches in length capsules with blunt tips. Preferring full sun areas the tree is tolerant to most conditions except drought and poor soil drainage.



Management Techniques:

Tree reproduction occurs from both seeds and cuttings. Recommended management practices are to either cut the tree or perform girdling. Girdling is when a strip of bark is completely removed around the circumference of the trunk.

Native Range and Original Introduction:

Native to northern Japan, it was introduced as an ornamental tree, garden plant, and in shrub borders.