Late Lilac
Late Lilac  
(*Syringa villosa*)

**General Description**
A dense tall shrub with stout ascending branches. This species blooms later than the common lilac. Lavender-pinkish flowers fade to gray-white. Does not sucker.

**Leaves and Buds**
- Bud Arrangement: Buds are opposite.
- Bud Color: Brown.
- Bud Size: 1/8 to 1/2 inch.
- Leaf Type and Shape: Simple, broad-elliptic to oblong.
- Leaf Margins: Entire.
- Leaf Surface: Usually pubescent near the midrib, rarely glabrous, veins impressed.
- Leaf Length: 3 to 7 inches.
- Leaf Width: 1 1/2 to 4 inches.
- Leaf Color: Medium green, glaucous beneath.

**Flowers and Fruits**
- Flower Type: Slightly fragrant, borne in large terminal panicles.
- Flower Color: Rosy-lilac to white, fade quickly.
- Fruit Type: Woody capsule.
- Fruit Color: Smooth, brown.

**Form**
- Growth Habit: Upright forming an oval to rounded outline.
- Texture: Coarse, summer; coarse, winter.
- Crown Height: 6 to 10 feet.
- Crown Width: 5 to 10 feet.
- Bark Color: Older bark is grayish-brown.
- Root System: Shallow, dense.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
- Soil Texture: Adapted to a variety of soils.
- Soil pH: 5.5 to 8.0.
- Windbreak Suitability Group: 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C.

**Cold Hardiness**
- USDA Zone: 2.

**Water**

**Light**
- Full sun.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Medium to tall shrub for farmstead windbreaks and highway beautification.

**Wildlife**
Little value for fruit or browse, may be of value for nesting by songbirds.

**Agroforestry Products**
Floral design - Semi-fragrant cutflowers.

**Urban/Recreational**
Good for shelter, shrub borders, groups or masses in parks and screen plantings.

**Cultivated Varieties**
Preston Lilacs (*Syringa x prestoniae*) - Hybrid crosses between Late Lilac (*S. villosa*) and Nodding Lilac (*S. reflexa*). Three of the best cultivars are:
- James MacFarlane Lilac (*S. x prestoniae ‘James MacFarlane’*)
- Minuet Lilac (*S. x prestoniae ‘Minuet’*)
- Miss Canada Lilac (*S. x prestoniae ‘Miss Canada’*)

**Related Species**
Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)

Japanese Tree Lilac (*S. reticulata*) - Tall, tree-like species, large creamy-white panicles.

Pekin Lilac (*S. pekinensis*) - Similar to Japanese Tree Lilac. Has attractive coppery, exfoliating bark.

**Pests**
Potential disease pests include several types of leaf spots and blights; insect pests include lilac borer, caterpillars, scales and leaf miners. Extracts from *Syringa* species are toxic to various insect pests.