

Ivory Silk Japanese Tree Lilac (*syringe reticulata* 'Ivory Silk')

Hardiness zones: 3-7
Height: 20-25 feet
Spread: 15-20 feet
Flower color: creamy white
Fall color: no color change
Soil moisture: medium to wet
Soil type: various
Light: full sun to part shade
Growth rate: moderate
Shape: vase, round, oval
Drought tolerance: moderate

The Japanese Tree Lilac's popularity has skyrocketed over the last several years and with good reason. It is versatile enough to use in numerous settings, requires little maintenance, is pest resistant, and puts on quite a show when it flowers. If your landscape calls for a small tree with a big impact, this plant is the perfect candidate.



Shrub form of Japanese Tree Lilac



Tree form of Japanese Tree Lilac



Showy white fragrant flowers are the trademark of this tree

"Tree Lilac" is somewhat of a misnomer. This specimen can be grown as both a tree or as the more traditional shrub. Regardless of the plant's shape, the white flowers that form from early June to July have been described as giving the tree the appearance of being surrounded by a cloud. Large plumes can reach 12" in length and up to 10" wide. The reddish cherry-like bark and dark green leaves provide a nice contrast to the creamy blooms. While not the hallmark of this tree, the green fruit clusters can be somewhat showy if viewed at close range.



Dark leaves provide a perfect backdrop



Fruit clusters add visual interest



The hallmark "cloud" of fragrant white flowers

The Japanese Tree Lilac is considered to be an extremely low maintenance plant. It is usually free of disease, is perhaps one of the most pest-resistant lilac varieties and is hardy enough to withstand winter temperatures of as much as 30 degrees below zero. It will thrive in various soil conditions and makes an excellent specimen tree. Its tolerance of urban conditions makes it well suited for use as a street tree.

The exceedingly fragrant flowers of this tree lilac are a favorite of hummingbirds and butterflies, and they are sure to become a favorite of the homeowner as well. For those who enjoy that heady lilac scent, Ivory Silk offers all the qualities of the traditional lilac in a carefree, non-traditional package.