The Mustard Seed
Landscaping & Garden Centers

Little Darling® Lilac

Syringa 'SMSDTL'



Little Darling Lilac flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Hybrid Lilac

Description:

This compact, dwarf selection is noted for its large panicles of lilac-pink flowers emerging from dark purple buds in spring, then a lighter bloom set in fall; wonderfully fragrant; perfect for massing in a low hedge or as a garden border plant

Ornamental Features

Little Darling Lilac is draped in stunning panicles of fragrant lilac purple flowers with pink overtones at the ends of the branches from late spring to early fall, which emerge from distinctive deep purple flower buds. The flowers are excellent for cutting. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The small pointy leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Little Darling Lilac is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Little Darling Lilac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Little Darling Lilac will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub should only be grown in full sunlight. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. This plant will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Little Darling Lilac makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.