China Snow® Peking Lilac
Syringa pekinensis ‘Morton’
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Botanical Name
Syringa pekinensis 'Morton'

Common Name
China Snow® Peking Lilac

Family
Oleaceae

Origin
This plant, selected from the collections of The Morton Arboretum, was grown from seed collected for The Arnold Arboretum by Joseph Rock in 1926 in Gansu province, China. The seed was shared with The Morton Arboretum that same year.

Hardiness
U.S.D.A. Zones 5-7

General Description and Habit
This tree lilac was selected for its amber-colored exfoliating bark, fragrant late spring blooms and graceful rounded habit. The parent tree measures 45' tall with a 40' spread after 75 years of growth.

Size
5-year size: 12' tall by 8' wide
20-year size: 25' tall by 20' wide

Growth Rate
Medium

Ornamental Characteristics
This medium-sized flowering tree has multiple seasons of interest because of its highly ornamental, amber-colored exfoliating bark. Deep green, semi-glossy foliage is followed by large, creamy-white fragrant blooms in mid-June. The blooms mature to grass green fruits that turn a nice tan color and persist well into the winter months. China Snow exhibits a display of exfoliating bark comparable to A. griseum.

Culture
Once established, China Snow can tolerate drought. Our trials have proven this selection is very tolerant of de-icing salt, but intolerant of poorly drained soils. Plant this tree in full sun or partial shade for best bloom production.

Pest and Disease Problems
None known.

Landscape Value
China Snow can be used successfully in urban street plantings, especially on parkways where the crown can spread. Use this plant in urban, residential and commercial plantings as a single or multi-stemmed plant to accentuate the exfoliating bark.

Propagation
Tissue culture and grafting.