

# CHICAGOLAND GROWS<sup>®</sup>, INC.

Plant Introduction Program - Plant Release Bulletin #34



## Beijing Gold<sup>™</sup>

(*Syringa pekinensis* 'Zhang Zhiming') Peking Tree Lilac\*

A superior tree lilac with attractive primrose-yellow summer flowers, eye-catching yellow autumn leaf color, and a more upright habit, this Peking tree lilac is less coarsely branched than most tree lilacs. A selection made by Zhang Zhiming of the Beijing Botanic Garden, People's Republic of China. This selection was introduced into the United States through the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC).



The Chicagoland Grows<sup>®</sup> Plant Introduction Program is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

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# Beijing Gold™ (*Syringa pekinensis* ‘Zhang Zhiming’)

Peking Tree Lilac



## Botanical Name

*Syringa pekinensis* ‘Zhang Zhiming’ (note: some authorities list as *Syringa reticulata* subsp. *pekinensis*)

## Trademark Name\*

Beijing Gold™ Peking Tree Lilac

## Family

Oleaceae

## Origin

A selection made by Zhang Zhiming of the Beijing Botanic Garden, People's Republic of China. This selection was introduced into the United States through the North America-China Plant Exploration Consortium (NACPEC). The species is native to northern China.

## Hardiness

This selection is hardy to USDA Zones 4 to 7, and not recommended for south of Zone 7.

## General Habit

A deciduous small tree, this selection can be grown either single- or multi-stemmed. It is more upright in habit and less coarsely branched than most tree lilacs.

## Size and Growth Rate

Grows to 20 feet in height with a 15-foot spread. Moderate growth rate of around one foot per year.

## Ornamental Characteristics

This selection exhibits multiple seasons of interest, from its panicles of fragrant, primrose-yellow flowers in early summer to its dark green foliage that can turn an eye-catching yellow in autumn. The ornamental, cherry-like cinnamon-colored bark is attractive year-round. An upright habit and finer branches than most tree lilacs completes the package.

## Culture

Best grown in full sun on a well-drained, reasonably moist soil, which can be acidic to alkaline. Drought-tolerant once established. Prune if necessary immediately after blooming. Since it has a better branching habit than most tree lilacs, there is less of a need for corrective shape pruning.

## Pest and Disease Problems

Good resistance to bacterial blight, powdery mildew, scale and borers for a lilac, especially in the recommended USDA Zones. Tolerant of both soil and aerial salt.

## Landscape Value

Excellent as a specimen plant or in groups in the lawn or along drives and parkways, in the mixed woody plant border, as a foundation shrub, or in any other suitable habitat where its excellent ornamental attributes can be appreciated year-round. It can be grown either single-stemmed or multistemmed, depending on your space and preferred habit. More upright and finer-branched than most tree lilacs.

The Chicagoland Grows® Plant Introduction Program is a nonprofit corporation of the Chicago Botanic Garden, The Morton Arboretum, and the Ornamental Growers Association of Northern Illinois (OGA).

The program is dedicated to the evaluation, selection, production, and marketing of recommended and new plant cultivars. Plants selected for the program have proven to be adaptable to the Midwest and are made available to the commercial and retail landscape industry through an international network of growers and propagators.

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For more information about Chicagoland Grows® contact the Plant Introduction Department, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL 60022, visit [www.chicagolandgrows.org](http://www.chicagolandgrows.org) or call (847) 835-8309.