East Bay Nursery

Julia Phelps California Lilac

Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps'



Julia Phelps California Lilac flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 7 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 7b

Description:

A very dense growing shrub with dark green glossy foliage; a prolific bloomer with beautiful flower clusters in shades of violet and blue, adding color in the spring; perfect for borders and rock gardens; very drought tolerant once established

Ornamental Features

Julia Phelps California Lilac is bathed in stunning cymes of lilac purple star-shaped flowers with violet overtones along the branches from late spring to early summer. It has attractive dark green evergreen foliage. The glossy oval leaves are highly ornamental and remain dark green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Julia Phelps California Lilac is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

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 bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Julia Phelps California Lilac is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use

Planting & Growing

Julia Phelps California Lilac will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 7 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.