

What do this beer and this plant have in common?



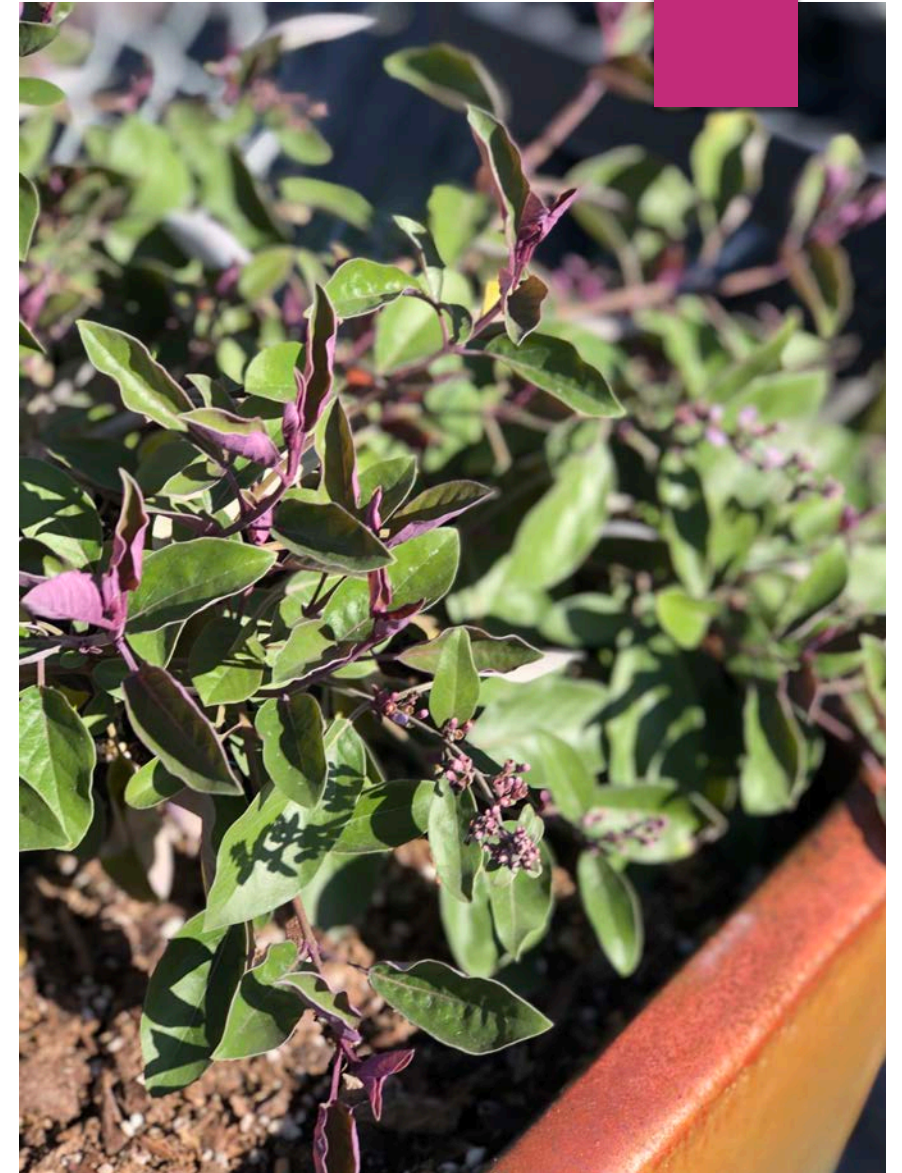
Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'

- ▶ Pronunciation:
VI-teks try-FOH-lee-a pur-PUR-ee-uh
- ▶ Common Name: Arabian lilac or
Arabian lilac 'Fascination'
- ▶ Genus: *Vitex*
- ▶ Species: *trifolia*
- ▶ Variety: Purpurea or Fascination
- ▶ Family: Lamiaceae
- ▶ Origin: Australia



Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'

- ▶ Evergreen Perennial that is fast growing
- ▶ Tolerates many different climates including coastal and inland.
- ▶ Tolerates many different soil types as long as they well drained.
- ▶ Tolerant to 25° Fahrenheit (but I've seen them be frost sensitive)
- ▶ Drought tolerant once established
 - ▶ Medium water needs until that point



Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'

- ▶ Blooms terminally.
- ▶ Small lavender flowers that grow in clusters up to 10" long.
- ▶ Traditionally blooms late summer to fall, but in our climate, it blooms year around.
- ▶ Attractive to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.
- ▶ Flower clusters are followed by pale yellow berries.



Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea'

- ▶ Because they are fast growing they can easily grow 12'-14' tall and 10'-15' wide. They need ample space.
- ▶ Arabian lilac can be used as a shrub or pruned into a tree.
- ▶ Often used in English or Mediterranean gardens for color, delicate, texture and in lieu of the common BGB.



Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea': Propagation





**Arabian Lilac in a garden setting at the Larabee House
San Diego Botanical Garden**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/131880272@N06/48650450878>

Work Cited

- ▶ “*Vitex Trifolia 'Purpurea'*, Arabian Lilac, Shrub, [V. Trifoliata Var. Purpurea, V. ' Fascination'].” *Plant Information*, San Marcos Growers , www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=4015.

-Jennifer Crocker

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What's That Bloomin' Thing: *Vitex trifolia* 'Purpurea'

Vitex trifolia 'Purpurea', commonly known as, Arabian Lilac is a gorgeous purple leaf, evergreen perennial in the Lamiaceae family. Carl Linneaus, the father of botanical nomenclature, used the term *Vitex* derived from the Latin word 'vicio' which means to weave. Fresh shoots from different *Vitex* plants were commonly used to weave baskets in the late 1700's, because of their pliable nature. The second word in the botanical name, 'trifolia', means three leaves which relates to the compound leaves containing three leaflets which cover this plant. The Variety name 'Purpurea' is in reference to the muted green and silver-purple foliage throughout. Arabian lilac is a quick growing shrub or small tree depending on how it's pruned. It can be found all over the globe in a multitude of countries, but it originally hails from Australia. It's ability to tolerate many soils and climates make it a popular choice in landscaping. Arabian lilac is drought tolerant once it's established and cold hardy down to around 28° Fahrenheit, and root hardy down to 20° Fahrenheit which make it perfect for Mediterranean climates that don't frost much and get little rain throughout the year. This plant does grow large, to between 10 and 15 feet tall, so it needs ample space, and may need to be pruned back occasionally, to maintain a nice form and remove dead branches and leaves. Arabian lilac grows best in full sun to partial shade in ultra-hot climates and needs regular water till established. It may need some supplemental irrigation during the hottest summer months but otherwise will be fine for the rest of the year. Arabian lilac has small clusters of terminal flowers, around 10 inches long, that bloom throughout the year, and

are immediately followed by tiny pale-yellow berries. These densely blooming purple flowers attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds making the Arabian lilac a perfect fit in a pollinator garden. Between the gorgeous green and purple foliage and the delicate purple flower clusters, Arabian lilac is a visual delight that is perfect addition to many gardens and landscapes.

Work Cited

*All information came from the following source:

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