



The inspiration behind the collection, Niko

# Niko styling Embark

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**N**iko, the little street dog that was rescued and adopted by Otaru Gunewardena, has become the sole inspiration for the new collection of clothes and accessories at the Embark store.

The embark team recently added some new varieties in their collection of clothes and apparel with over 150 items ranging from T-shirts, sweaters with logos, prints, taglines and stonework. The black and white combination that were the hallmark of Embark have been supplemented with pink, yellow, blue and red items carrying the Embark patch or tab.

When asked Otaru what happened to the four little puppies, she told with a big smile on her face that the models who showcased the new collections, adopted the puppies.

She also said that to date, over 2000 dogs have been vaccinated and sterilized with the Embark program and over around 80 have been adopted.

There's also a dog adoption day tomorrow at the Odel car park from 3 pm to 6 pm, so all of you who want to adopt a puppy be there and give the puppies longing for that special family a loving home.

"A dog is the only thing on earth that will love you more than you love yourself."

Josh Billings



Erosha and puppy



Model and puppy



Bianca and puppy. Pictures by Rowan de Silva



Rozelle and puppy



*Syringa vulgaris* (Common Lilac)



The beauty of lilac

## The layers of Lilac

"If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change." - the Buddha

**T**he Lilac, also known as *Syringa* is a genus of about 20-25 species of flowering plants in the olive family (*Oleaceae*), native to Europe and Asia.

They are deciduous shrubs or small trees, ranging in size from 2-10 m tall, with stems up to 20-30 cm diameter. The leaves are opposite (occasionally in whorls of three) in arrangement, and their shape is simple and heart-shaped to broad lanceolate in most species, but pinnate in a few species (*protolaciniata*, *pinnatifolia*). The flowers are produced in spring, each flower being five to 10 mm in diameter with a four-lobed corolla, the corolla tube narrow five to 20 mm long. The usual flower colour is a shade of purple (often a light purple or lilac), but white, pale yellow and pink, and even a dark burgundy color are also found.

The flowers grow in large panicles, and in several species have a strong fragrance. Flowering varies between mid spring to early summer, depending on the species. The fruit is a dry, brown capsule, splitting in two at maturity to release the two winged seeds.

The genus is most closely related to *Ligustrum* (privet), classified with it in *Oleaceae* tribe *Oleeae* subtribe *Ligustrinae*. Lilacs are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including Copper Underwing, Scalloped Oak and Sennosser's Copper Underwing and Saras.

### Uses

Lilacs are popular shrubs in parks and gardens throughout the temperate zone. In addition to the species listed above, several hybrids and numerous cultivars have been developed. The term French lilac is often used to refer to modern double-flowered cultivars.

Lilacs flower on old wood, and produce more flowers if unpruned. If pruned, the plant responds by producing fast-growing young vegetative growth with no flowers,

in an attempt to restore the removed branches; a pruned lilac often produces few or no flowers for one to five or more years, before the new growth matures sufficiently to start flowering.

Unpruned lilacs flower reliably every year. Despite this, a common fallacy holds that lilacs should be pruned regularly. If pruning is required, it should be done right after flowering is finished, before next year's flower buds are formed. Lilacs generally grow better in slightly alkaline soil.

Lilac bushes can be prone to powdery mildew disease, which is caused by poor air circulation.

The wood of lilac is close-grained, diffuse-porous, extremely hard and one of the densest in Europe. The sapwood is typically cream-coloured and the heartwood has various shades of brown and purple. Lilac wood has traditionally been used for engraving, musical instruments, knife handles etc. When drying, the wood has a tendency to be incurved as a twisted material, and to split into narrow sticks.

The wood of Common Lilac is even harder than for example that of *Syringa josikaea*.

The genus name *Syringa* is derived from *syrinx* meaning a hollow tube or pipe, and refers to the broad pith in the shoots in some species, easily hollowed out to make reed pipes and flutes in early history.

A pale purple colour is generally known as lilac after the flower. In Greece, Lebanon, and Cyprus, the lilac is strongly associated with Easter time because it flowers around that time; it is consequently called paschalia. *Syringa vulgaris* is the state flower of New Hampshire, because it "is symbolic of that hardy character of the men and women of the Granite State" (New Hampshire Revised Statute Annotated (RSA) 3:5).

"When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom" is a poem written by Walt Whitman as an elegy to Abraham Lincoln.

Source: Wikipedia



A white, double-flowered cultivar



Purple lilac

