

Lilac Selection and Care

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Lilacs are versatile flowering shrubs. They can serve as border plants with other shrubs, as corner plantings and as flower hedges. Lilacs are also a wonderful plant to use as a natural screen. Lilacs are hardy and are prolific bloomers, often with fragrant flowers. Flowers are either single or double, ranging from white to magenta and various shades of blue and purple. There is even a pale yellow!

- Lilacs prefer a pH neutral soil that is moist but well drained.
- Planting Lilacs in full sun assures the best bloom, but they will tolerate locations that are partly sunny.
- Plant your Lilac in an area with good summer air movement. This air movement (breeze) helps to combat powdery mildew.
- Powdery mildew is a common problem among some species of Lilacs. It can be controlled with a fungicide. Treat your Lilac with a fungicide as soon as you notice powdery mildew. Consult with your Garden Center Professional. Powdery mildew problems tend to be more aesthetic than harmful.
- Be sure to prune your Lilac after flowering. Prune no later than July 4th. Lilacs will tolerate renovation pruning.
- Lilacs benefit from a yearly top dressing of compost and a light fertilizer.
- Various species ensure a large range of plant size and flower color to suit any need.

Common Lilac - *Syringa vulgaris*

If not pruned, the Common Lilac can grow 8'-15' tall by 6'-12' wide. The common lilac generally has fragrant flowers that bloom anywhere from early-late May. Flower color may be white or lilac. French hybrids may be white, purple, lilac, pink, magenta, violet, blue or yellow.

Chinese Lilac - *Syringa chinensis*

If not pruned, the Chinese Lilac can grow anywhere from 8'-15' tall and as wide. Produces fragrant purple lilac flowers; blooms mid-May.

Early Flowering Lilac - *Syringa hyacinthiflora*

If not pruned, the Early Flowering Lilac can grow 8'-15' tall by 6'-12' wide. Produces heavily fragrant blossoms between late April to early May. Flower colors range from white to pink to purple.



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Miss Kim Lilac - *Syringa lacinata*

If not pruned, Miss Kim Lilac can grow 6' tall by 6' wide. Produces fragrant icy blue flowers; blooms mid-May to June.

Palibin Lilac (Dwarf Korean Lilac) - *Syringa meyeri*

If not pruned, Palibin Lilac can grow 5' tall by 5' wide. Produces abundant fragrant violet-purple flowers that appear in May. This lilac is resistant to powdery mildew.

Preston Series Lilac - *Syringa prestoniae*

If not pruned, the Preston Series Lilac can reach 6'-8' tall by 6'-12' wide. Produces lightly fragrancd flowers ranging in color from white to pink. Generally flowers in early June.

Japanese Tree Lilac - *Syringa reticulata*

Oval crowned tree maturing to 18'-20' tall by 25' wide. Produces fragrant creamy white flowers that appear in early to mid-June.



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