Successfully Growing Lilacs

Lilacs are a beautiful accent to the yard with their fragrant blossoms and variety of colors and sizes. They come in shades of white, yellow, pink, blue, purple, and wine-red. They are very hardy and can tolerate our cold, harsh winters. They make an excellent hedge or windbreak. Lilacs require at least six hours of sunlight each day for best growth and blossom production.

Purple

**Common Purple** – Very hardy old-fashioned lilac, great informal hedge. Extremely fragrant purple flowers in May. Cut flowers hold up well. Height 12-15’, spread 8-12’. (Zone 2)

**Dwarf Korean** – Dwarf variety with excellent uniform habit and reddish-purple buds that open to fragrant, single, pale lilac flowers. Blooms profusely. Height 4-5’, spread 5-7’. (Zone 3)

**Katherine Havemeyer** – French hybrid. Double, lavender-pink flowers appear in May. Height 10-12’, spread 8-10’. (Zone 3)

**Miss Kim** – Purple buds open to single, fragrant, pale lilac flowers when other lilacs have finished. Beautiful burgundy-red fall color. Height 6-7’, spread 5-6’. (Zone 3)

**Pocahontas** – Deep maroon-purple buds open to single deep violet florets. Blooms profusely in early May. Exceptionally hardy and vigorous. Height and spread 10-12’. (Zone 2)

**President Grevy** – French hybrid. This vigorous lilac produces large panicles of starry, double, lilac-blue florets in May. Height 10-12’, spread 8’. (Zone 3)

**Sensation** – French hybrid. Single purple florets with a distinctive pure white border appear in May. An outstanding and unique lilac. Height 8-10’, spread 8-12’. (Zone 3)

Wine-Red

**Ludwig Spaeth** – French hybrid. One of the best purples available. Single, reddish-purple flowers are produced in early June. Height 10-12’, spread 6-8’. (Zone 3)


Pink

**Beauty of Moscow** – Double, delicate pale pink to white flowers are produced in May. Stunning in bloom. Height 10-12’, spread 8’. (Zone 3)

**Miss Canada** – Brightest pink of all late flowering lilacs. Very hardy and vigorous. Blooms prolifically in mid-June with rose colored, single flowers. Height 6-9’, spread 5-8’. (Zone 2)

**Tinkerbelle** – This dwarf variety has wine-red flower buds that open to single, pink flowers. Spicy fragrance. Height 5-6’, spread 4-5’. (Zone 4)

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**What You’ll Need:**

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<td>T&amp;C Soil Enhancer</td>
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White

Mme. Lemoine – French hybrid. This very showy lilac bears panicles of double, white flowers in May. Height 8-10’, spread 10’. (Zone 3)


Here are a few tips to keep your lilacs looking beautiful!

- When planting lilacs, give them a good sand or gravel base in bottom of the planting hole. This will allow drainage and air flow around the roots.

- As with any plant, make sure to keep the area around lilacs free of weeds. Weeds compete for the nutrients and light that lilacs need.

- Give your lilacs plenty of room to grow.

- To encourage blooming, use a fertilizer high in Phosphate (such as T&C Fruit & Flower Food) and prune your lilacs right after they bloom.

Pruning Lilacs

1. Cut out all diseased, infested, or twiggy/small branches.

2. Cut out 1/3 of the oldest branches. Leave strong trunks to form a frame for the lilac. Eliminate all but the strongest of the suckers. However, if your lilac is grafted onto a different rootstock, get rid of all suckers by cutting them back to the ground.

3. Prune some height off the top of your lilac.

Rejuvenating Old Lilacs

First, consider the soil around the lilac. Is it depleted of all nutrients, or hard packed so that the plant doesn't have good drainage or aeration? If so, it is time to add manures (or other fertilizers), mulches, and top dressing in abundance. Save-A-Tree liquid fertilizer is an excellent source of nutrients for lilacs.

Pruning- sometimes drastic- is the next step. Cut out all of the oldest wood to the ground. You want to renew your old lilac by growing new suckers to replace the old worn-out wood. Do this over a two-year time period unless you don’t mind your lilac bush looking small and scraggily for a while.

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