



Fact Sheet

Lilacs

Lilacs are deciduous shrubs native to North-East Asia and Eastern Europe. The majority of these popular and pretty plants that are sold in nurseries come from the common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*. Most varieties have been developed in France and America. Coming in various shades of mauve, purple, pink, lavender, lilac, blue, reddish purple and white, Lilacs are a beautiful addition to any garden.

Flowers can vary from single to double and in clusters that can be compact and very full or large, open and spreading. With an exquisite fragrance their perfume will permeate a garden. Lilac flowers also make a wonderful cut flower with their delicious sweet scent wafting through the house.

Lilacs will grow in warm temperate to cool areas with cool winters and will tolerate frosts and extreme cold. They will grow in part shade, but they do prefer a more open position in full sun. Preferring well drained soil, rich in organic matter, they benefit from applications of lime in autumn. Lilacs do not do well in acidic soil or where the soil is wet for long periods.

When planting a lilac, it is very important to plant the bud union, where the lilac is grafted, BELOW the soil surface, approximately 10cm. Eventually the lilac will form its own root stock. If any suckers appear, cut them off below the soil surface.

Powdery mildew can sometimes be a problem in late autumn, if so, they can be sprayed with Mancozeb.

Pruning should consist of cutting back the finished flowers as soon as they fade, as if picking them for a vase. This encourages new growth for the following year. If desired, lilacs can be cut back hard, after flowering, to renew them. In the following years, pruning should once again be done lightly.

Growing between 2-3m high and wide, lilacs are a great choice for gardens that have limited space.

Lilac season begins in winter when dormant plants are sold bare rooted. They are then sold potted, in spring and summer until sold out.



Each year we stock a wide range of lilacs, including the following varieties:

Alice Eastwood

Double, claret-pink flowers forming dense clusters in mid spring. Strong fragrance.

Belle de Nancy

Double, satin lilac-pink flowers forming long semi open clusters in mid spring. Strong fragrance.

Charles Joly

Double, deep reddish-purple flowers forming upright, semi dense clusters in mid spring. Strong fragrance.

Congo

Single, rich dark purple flowers forming large semi open clusters in mid spring. Medium fragrance.

Cora Brandt

Double pure white flowers forming multi stemmed large semi open clusters in late spring. Medium fragrance.

Katherine Havemeyer

Double soft mauve-pink flowers forming large, very dense clusters in mid spring. Considered to be one of the best French lilacs. Strong fragrance.

Mme Lemoine

Double, stark white flowers forming strong upright clusters in mid-spring. Medium fragrance.

Mrs Edward Harding

Semi-double, large reddish purple flowers forming large open clusters in late spring. Medium fragrance.

Olivier de Serres

Double, pinkish-mauve-blue flowers forming large open clusters in mid spring. Faint fragrance.



Sensation

Single, deep purple flowers, each one edged in white and forming open clusters in mid spring. Delicate fragrance.

Sweetheart

Double, dusty pale pastel pink flowers forming large, semi-open clusters in mid spring. Delicate fragrance.

In addition to the common lilac varieties, there are a number of other lilacs that are less well known in the home garden, but never the less they are beautiful and attractive plants. Two varieties that are available are:-

Syringa persica or Persian Lilac

A lovely shrub that grows to about 1.5m. Dainty clusters of loose, very fragrant lilac flowers cover this plant in early November.

Syringa wolfii

From Korea, grows to about 2m. Flowers are single, lilac-pink, fragrant and appear in late spring. A very pretty, large shrub.



We'll make your garden grow!!