



Growing Lilacs

Lilacs are the official state flower of New Hampshire and prized for their elegant and delicious fragrance. They are hardy, deciduous shrubs and trees that flower in late spring to early summer. They can be planted spring, summer or early fall and perform best in full sun.

Lilacs are happiest in moist but well drained soils. They prefer a pH range of 6.5-7, which can be obtained by adding ground limestone. A soil test must be performed first to obtain the initial soil pH, to know the quantity to add.

Many lilacs get quite large over time, so it is best to give them plenty of room to grow. They can be used for tall screen plantings or as individual specimens. Japanese Tree Lilacs grow in tree form and get up to 30' tall. French and Common Lilacs get to be 10'-15' tall and have a suckering habit, often growing just as wide. Dwarf Korean and 'Miss Kim' lilacs keep a shrubbier habit and can create a nice hedge or be used as a foundation accent plant.

Once established lilacs need little care. Annual thinning is best to keep an open crown for good airflow and sunlight penetration. Lilacs should be pruned after flowering in the late spring-summer. This will improve their appearance and keep them flowering their best. Common lilacs should be pruned to 7 -12 canes, of various ages. Lilacs do not need heavy fertilization but annual topdressing with organic matter and mulch will keep weeds under control and help to conserve moisture. Fertilize in early spring or October with 5-10-10. Do not overfertilize with nitrogen, as this will promote leafy growth, and shrubs will not flower as well.

Lilacs are susceptible to powdery mildew, which is rarely harmful to the plant. Good pruning for airflow will help prevent powdery mildew from occurring. Other diseases and pests may include oystershell scale, lilac borers and miners.

Why isn't my lilac blooming?

There are several factors that might affect how floriferous your Lilac is.

1. Lilacs like full sun (6+ hours). If they don't get enough sun, they will be less floriferous. Prune overstory or move to a full sun location.
2. Age: Lilacs may not bloom for 5-7 years after transplant.
3. Fertilizer: Lilacs are not heavy feeders, too rich of a soil, especially with nitrogen, may hinder flowers.
4. Pruning: Lilacs should only be pruned after flowering. If pruned in the fall or winter, they do not have enough time to generate new flowers buds in time.





Variety	Bloom Color	Height	Spread
Syringa Bloomerang	Purple	5'-6'	5'-6'
Syringa Bloomerang 'Pink Perfume'	Pink	4'-5'	4'-5'
Syringa patula 'Dream Cloud'	Soft Pink	4'-5'	4'-5'
Syringa patula 'Miss Kim'	Soft Purple	6'-7'	5'-6'
Syringa patula 'Baby Kim'	Pale Lilac	6'-7'	5'-6'
Syringa meyeri 'FlowerFesta Purple'	Light Purple	3'-5'	3'-5'
Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'	Lavender	4'-6'	5'-7'
Syringa vulgaris	Soft Purple	10'-15'	8'-10'
Syringa vulgaris 'Alba'	single white	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Agincourt Beauty'	Large single deep purple	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris Belle de Nancy'	double bright pink	8'-10'	8'-10'
Syringa vulgaris 'Betsy Ross'	white	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Burgundy Queen'	Single burgundy red	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Charles Joly'	red/purple	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Fiala Remembrance'	double white	7'-9'	6'-8'
Syringa vulgaris 'Katherine Havermeyer'	Double lavender	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Krasavitsa Moskv'y'	pink buds/double white flowers	8'-10'	6'-8'
Syringa vulgaris 'Lavender Lady'	Large Purple	12'-15'	12'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Ludwig Spaeth'	Single Deep Purple	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Madame Lemoine'	Double White with a hint of pink	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Michael Buchner'	classic lavender	8'-12'	6'-8'
Syringa vulgaris 'Monge'	Single deep purple with yellow eye	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'New Age Lavender'	Lavender	4'-5'	4'-5'
Syringa vulgaris 'New Age White'	White	4'-5'	4'-5'
Syringa vulgaris 'Paul Thirion'	double magenta	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Prairie Petite'	pink buds/double white flowers	4'	4'
Syringa vulgaris 'President Grevy'	Blue-Lilac	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'President Lincoln'	Lavender	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'President Poincaire'	double magenta	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Primrose'	pale creamy yellow	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Sensation'	Purple with a white border	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa vulgaris 'Tiny Dancer'	Lavender/Pink	4'-5'	3'-4'
Syringa vulgaris 'Virtual Violet'	Double Purple	6'-8'	5'-6'
Syringa vulgaris 'Yankee Doodle'	One of the Darkest Purple	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa josifexa 'Royalty'	Purple/Lavender	8'-10'	8'-10'





Variety	Bloom Color	Height	Spread
Syringa hyacinthiflora	Double lilac	12'-18'	8'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Angel White'	Pure White	12'-15'	8'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Declaration'	Single red/purple	8'-10'	8'-10'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Equinox Valley'	Double soft purple	12'-18'	8'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Mt. Baker'	Single white	10'-12'	10'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Maidens Blush'	Single Pink	10'-12'	10'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Old Glory'	Bluish purple	10'-15'	10'-15'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Pocohontas'	Deep Purple	8'-10'	8'-10'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Purple Glory'	Bluish-Purple	12'-15'	8'-12'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Royal Purple'	Dark Purple	10'-15'	8'-10'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Scentara Double Blue'	Cool purple blue	6'-8'	6'-8'
Syringa hyacinthiflora 'Scentara Pura'	Pure purple	4'-5'	4'-5'
Syringa prestoniae 'Donald Wyman'	Purple	8'-10'	8'-10'
Syringa prestoniae 'James MacFarlane'	Rosy Red	8'-10'	6'-8'
Syringa prestoniae 'Pinktin'	Rich Pink	4'-5'	3'-4'

