



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SPRING SHRUB LILAC CARE

LIGHT

Common lilacs (*Syringa vulgaris*) and traditional spring-flowering shrub hybrids flower best with at least six hours of direct sun. Choose an open position rather than a crowded, shaded corner. Mature size varies greatly, so check the cultivar's label before planting.

WATER

Water slowly and thoroughly after planting, then check the root ball and surrounding soil before watering again. Keep young plants evenly moist while roots establish. Established plants need supplemental water during prolonged dry weather. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling and soil that remains saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose well-drained garden soil and plant at the original nursery depth. Allow room for the cultivar's mature spread and good air circulation. Mulch the root zone lightly, leaving the stem bases clear. Test the soil before adding lime or other pH-changing amendments.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy feeding and keep high-nitrogen lawn fertilizer away from the roots. Excess nitrogen encourages leaves at the expense of flowers. If a soil test indicates a need, use a modest spring application of shrub fertilizer at the label rate and water afterward.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune immediately after flowering because next spring's buds form soon afterward. Remove dead wood and selectively thin older stems to encourage younger growth. Do not shear in fall or winter. Severe renovation can delay flowering; spread renewal over several seasons when possible.

HELPFUL TIPS

Remove unwanted suckers, especially shoots arising below a graft. Young plants may take a few seasons to flower. Good spacing and watering at the base help keep foliage healthier. Reblooming lilacs, early hybrids, compact shrub types, late hybrids, and true tree lilacs have separate guides.