



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

JAPANESE AND PEKING TREE LILAC CARE

LIGHT

True tree lilacs (*Syringa reticulata* and *S. pekinensis*), including Ivory Silk, Snowdance, and Great Wall, flower most freely in full sun. Plan for a small tree's mature canopy and roots, with space from buildings, overhead obstructions, and narrow walkways.

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

Maintain a sound tree framework. Remove dead, damaged, or rubbing branches selectively; do light ornamental shaping after flowering. Do not top the tree or apply shrub-renewal cutting to its main trunk. Remove unwanted basal shoots if maintaining a single-trunk form, and seek skilled help for large limbs.

HELPFUL TIPS

Cream-colored flowers appear later than most shrub lilacs, and their scent can differ from familiar purple lilacs. Retain attractive bark and natural branching. These species differ from a compact shrub lilac grafted onto a standard trunk; use the compact or reblooming guide for those grafted plants.