



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

EARLY HYBRID LILAC CARE

LIGHT

Early hybrid lilacs (*Syringa x hyacinthiflora*), including Pocahontas, Mount Baker, Declaration, and Scentara selections, flower best in full sun. Leave an open area around the shrub for air movement and its mature branching habit. Their spring flowers usually precede common lilacs.

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

Make necessary pruning cuts immediately after this shrub finishes flowering. Do not wait for later-flowering lilacs to finish before checking an early hybrid. Remove dead or damaged stems and selectively thin older branches. Heavy cutting can postpone bloom, and late pruning removes next spring's flower buds.

HELPFUL TIPS

Flower timing depends on cultivar and weather, so use the actual end of bloom as your cue. Winter chill requirements vary among selections such as Lavender Lady and other early hybrids. Selective pruning is preferable to repeatedly clipping the shrub into a tight formal shape.