



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

COMPACT SHRUB LILAC CARE

LIGHT

Compact shrub lilacs, including Palibin, Miss Kim, Baby Kim, Pearl Potion, Little Lady, and Tinkerbelle, flower best in full sun. Compact does not mean miniature: check the cultivar's mature height and width and provide enough room for its natural mound.

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

Little pruning is usually needed. After the main spring flowers fade, remove damaged or awkward branches and lightly shape only as required. Avoid hard annual shearing and late-season cutting, which remove flower buds. A tree-form specimen needs gentle crown shaping rather than cutting back its trunk.

HELPFUL TIPS

Some selections may produce a lighter later flush, but do not assume all compact lilacs rebloom. Autumn color and winter leaf drop are normal. On grafted tree forms, remove shoots from the trunk and below the graft. Bloomerang and other dedicated reblooming selections have a separate guide.