



Featured plant

Lilacs

The Fragrance of Spring

Lilacs made their way to the U.S. in the early 1600's with the colonists. Long among gardeners' favorite plants, lilacs are cherished for both their floral display and fragrance. So alluring is the flower fragrance, it is often reproduced for perfumes. Early selections were limited primarily to the common lilac, but the fragrance and

floral display were stunning even then. Pyramidal, upright clusters, called panicles, are typically produced on the end of the stems. Flowers range from white to various shades of lavender, pink-lavender, to pink, deep pink, and near red. There are both single and double flowered forms, any and all make a fine cut bouquet. When choosing one lilac over another, flower, color, fragrance, size, and timing should inform your decision.

Lilacs are easy to grow and show great versatility in the landscape. The only significant cultural factor to consider is extended periods of heat during the summer, which is not so much an issue in the mid-Atlantic region. Plants grow and flower best in full sun and moist, well-drained soils. In part shade, plants may show reduced flower production; in drier sites, plants demonstrate reduced growth. Several selections offered in the sale perform beautifully in these less than-ideal-situations. Good air circulation avoids moist foliage, which can lead to powdery mildew, although this is more severe on earlier cultivar introductions. Most lilacs grown today have good to excellent powdery mildew resistance.

Pruning lilacs helps reduce the incidence of mildew and provides for better flowering. The general recommendation for pruning of all lilacs is to prune after flowering, as lilacs flower on last year's stems. When pruned in the early summer, new flowers will develop for the next year. Pruning late in the year results in the removal of some or all of the flowers for the coming season. When pruning the *S. vulgaris* and related types, select individual stems to be removed. First, remove some to most of the small sucker stems. Leave a few to replace older, non-flowering stems in the future. If plants are too dense, you may choose to remove some of the medium-sized stems, but keep in mind these will be the most productive stems. Finally, evaluate the older stems. Often they begin to dominate the plant but do not produce many flowers. If this is the case, they should be cut at ground level to make room for more vigorous and productive growth. Very old or overgrown plants can be cut to the ground to rejuvenate plants. Plants will re-grow stems and produce flowers depending on the species. In general, the shrubby species respond best to this type of pruning.



Syringa laciniata
Cutleaf Lilac



Syringa reticulata
'Ivory Silk'

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size, Plant Size	Price
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Syringa (microphylla 'Superba' × meyeri 'Palibin') 'Bailsugar'

Sugar Plum Fairy® Lilac 4-6' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 2' \$15.00
Introduced by Bailey Nurseries, this plant has a compact, mounded habit. Plants have small foliage and a well-branched habit that does not require extensive pruning. Abundant, rosy-lilac flowers with a traditional heady lilac scent appear in late spring and early summer. The foliage is disease free.

Syringa × hyacinthiflora 'Anabel'

Early Flowering Lilac 6-9' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 1-2' \$15.00
Rated one of the best early flowering pink lilacs, with fully double flowers. Rather than four petals per flower, 'Anabel' produces eight, imparting a much bolder floral display. The flowers produce an appealing fragrance and the foliage is free of mildew.

Syringa × hyacinthiflora 'Mt. Baker'

Early Flowering Lilac 10-12' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 3' \$15.00
Early flowering lilac is the earliest of all lilacs to flower, typically emerging 7 to 10 days before the common lilac. Early, pure white flowers terminate branches like candles on a cake. The very fragrant flowers are a delight to cut and bring inside so they can be appreciated. This cultivar has been selected for mildew resistance.

Syringa × hyacinthiflora 'Maiden's Blush'

Early Flowering Lilac 8-10' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 3' \$15.00
The early pink-lavender, fragrant flowers appear in mid- to late April. The foliage is mildew free and turns burgundy in the autumn, providing color in the fall garden, unlike most lilacs.

Syringa × hyacinthiflora 'Excel'

Early Flowering Lilac 8-10' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 1-2' \$15.00
One of the earliest-to-flower, this lilac selection has a more compact habit than other cultivars. A free-flowering selection with large, fragrant clusters of single lavender flowers and mildew resistant.

Syringa julianae 'George Eastman'

4-6' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 1' \$15.00
There are no truly red flowered lilacs but this cultivar comes closer than any other. The magnificent wine red buds open a deep cerise-pink in flowers. The flowers are stunning on compact, upright plants. The foliage is mildew resistant.

Syringa laciniata

Cutleaf Lilac 5-8' ○ ☁ 1 gal, 2-3' \$15.00
The fine, lacy-textured foliage is a striking characteristic that set this species apart from other lilacs. In early May, fragrant, pale lavender flowers are produced in 3 inch loose panicles all along the stem. Plants flower reliably in part shade. The foliage is highly disease resistant.

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Syringa meyeri 'Palibin'

Dwarf Korean Lilac 4-6' ○ ☀ 1 gal, 1-2' \$15.00

If you are looking for a compact plant that grows 4 to 5 feet tall and as wide, does not requiring extensive pruning, and has fragrant, lavender pink flowers, you have come to the right place. Flower buds are reddish and open to 4 inch long flower clusters that are effective in the garden for about 2 weeks. The foliage is typically mildew free.

Syringa pekinensis 'Morton'

China Snow® Peking Lilac 15-20' ○ ☀ ☀ 1 gal, 3' \$15.00

One of the larger lilac species, Peking lilac is very useful as a small tree. The adaptability and drought tolerance make this a good candidate for urban settings. It is more highly branched and finer texture than *S. reticulata*. Three to 6 inch long flower clusters appear in late spring, before *S. reticulata*. This cultivar was selected for its upright growth habit and amber colored, exfoliating bark.

Syringa × *prestoniae* 'Red Wine'

Preston Lilac 8-10' ○ ☀ 1 gal, 1-2' \$15.00

Considered one of the darkest of the "red" flower types, the deep colored buds open to magenta flowers. It is late flowering with a slight fragrance.

Syringa × *prestoniae* 'Miss Canada'

Preston Lilac 6-9' ○ ☀ 1 gal, 1' \$15.00

A graceful lilac, 'Miss Canada' flowers heavily and produces deep rose-pink flowers in early to mid June. The leaves are dark green with an amazing yellow green fall color.

Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk'

Japanese Tree Lilac 20-25' ○ ☀ 1 gal, 3-4' \$15.00

(Formerly *S. amurensis* var. *japonicum*) A large shrub or small tree habit with cherry-like reddish bark, and deep green leaves make this a good urban tree for small sites. It flowers heavily and later than most lilacs. The flowers are borne in 6 to 12 inch long clusters that are creamy white in early to mid-June but unlike its relatives, has no sweet fragrance. Resistant to mildew.

Syringa vulgaris 'Anne Shiach'

Common Lilac 8-15' ○ ☀ 1 gal, 1-3' \$15.00

The common lilac is still quite popular and with the introduction of new, more mildew resistant cultivars, will remain popular for years to come. This selection produces huge clusters of purple red flowers and retains the strong lilac fragrance that you remember; very rare.

Syringa vulgaris 'Prairie Petite'

Common Lilac 3-4' ○ ☀ 3 gal, 1' \$20.00

Unlike the old varieties of lilacs, 'Prairie Petite' is a dwarf that does not require much space nor does it require periodic cut back. Fragrant, light pink flowers fade to lavender in the spring. Plants have improved mildew resistance.

Quick Reference for Cultural Symbols

In order to help you select the right plant for your gardening needs, we have included the following symbols to indicate plant needs:

LIGHT RECOMMENDATIONS

○ full sun ● partial sun ● full shade

SOIL MOISTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

☀ dry soil ☀ moist soil ☀ wet soil

These are broad guidelines, as plants often can withstand a wider range of conditions. Plants that prefer part shade may grow well in full sun if there is adequate soil moisture during hot, dry spells. Similarly, plants that prefer moist soils may grow well in drier sites if some shade is provided, especially midday.

Nativity

** [two asterisks] before the Latin name indicates plants are native to the Eastern United States. Cultivars of native plants are also considered native, as these are a selection from variants in the population.

Lilac Allée at Mt. Cuba. Photo credit: Rick Lewandowski

