



## PLANT CARE SERIES

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# Lilac

Lilacs are grown for their intense fragrance and beautiful blooms. The flowers of the lilac range in color from pink to purple also white and pale yellow. There is even one that is purple with a white edge. Lilacs can have single or double flowers. There is even a new re-blooming lilac called the "Bloomerang"! They range from sizes from 4 feet to 12 feet tall and wide.

## EXPOSURE

Sun to part shade: at least 6 hours of direct sunlight a day to properly set flower buds.

## PLANTING

We recommend planting your lilac(s) with **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Lime**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and **Bonide Root n Grow**. See our **Planting Guide** for more information. They like well drained soil: create a mound 3 to 4 feet wide and 12 to 15 inches above ground level if needed.

## PRUNING

Prune to trim back your bush immediately after it is done blooming. Cut off old flower heads, this helps the plant concentrate on preparing more flower buds instead of seeds. Lilacs set up next year's flowers immediately after blooming. A good rule of thumb: do not prune after the Fourth of July. You can do rejuvenating pruning on your existing lilac by removing a third of the canes to the ground.

## FERTILIZING

Apply **Dr. Earth Flower Fertilizer** and **Lime** in the spring before or at leaf break. Apply a fertilizer that has a second number around twice as high as the first. This will encourage bloom and not push the foliage too hard. Additional lime in the fall is highly recommended.

## MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches of **Soil Building Compost** in a 3 foot diameter around your lilac. Mulching helps with weed suppression and moisture control and adds nutrients to your lilac.

## SPRAYING

Spray **Copper Fungicide** in the late winter/early spring to help to prevent powdery mildew and leaf blight.

## USES

An old fashioned flower which make a beautiful cut flower. To prolong cut lilac flowers for bouquets use a hammer to crush the ends of the stems so they can drink more water. Lilacs also make great hedges. Plant them 5 to 6 feet on center.

## WHY DON'T MY LILACS BLOOM?

- Most lilacs will not bloom the first 3 to 5 years
- Improper pruning or pruning at the wrong time
- Planting in too much shade
- Soil is too acidic and needs to be sweetened with lime
- Poor drainage
- Using a too-high nitrogen fertilizer

## CHECK LIST

- Lilac(s)
- Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost
- Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer
- Bonide Root n Grow
- Lime
- Dr. Earth Flower Fertilizer
- Copper Fungicide