Growing Syringa (Lilac)

**Latin Name Pronunciation:** sir-ing’guh

Plant Syringa in full sun (*S. laciniata* varieties are the exception and will perform well in partial shade). Immature lilacs produce flowers with lighter coloration; it may take 4–6 years for their true color to show.

All Lilacs require well-drained soil with pH close to neutral. Add lime if your soil is extremely acid. Fertilize once, in early spring, with a light application of an organic seaweed extract, fish emulsion, or slow-release fertilizer. Prune as necessary after bloom in spring.

*S. vulgaris* varieties are prone to powdery mildew, which generally appears in late summer. Mildew disfigures the leaves to varying degrees, but seems to have little effect on the vigor of the plant.