

Lilac

Syringa vulgaris

QUICK FACTS

USDA ZONES

3–7

SUNLIGHT

Full Sun

BLOOM

Spring

HEIGHT

8–15 ft

DEER

Resistant

POLLINATORS

Yes

AT A GLANCE

Lilacs need cold winters (chilling hours) to bloom -- they don't perform reliably in zone 7 and warmer. In zones 3–6, they are among the most durable and rewarding shrubs available. Prune them only immediately after bloom (within 2 weeks) -- never in late summer, fall, or spring, which removes the buds for next year. Powdery mildew is cosmetic, not fatal.

PLANTING CHECKLIST

- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/lilac-care/>