

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	3 to 7.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 5 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	4 to 5 feet tall with a 3 to 4 foot head span.
BLOOM TIME	Spring and summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 years.
FACTS OF NOTE	Fragrant. Attracts butterflies. Colorful fall foliage.

## SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.



*Thank you for your order.*

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

- [www.CottageFarmsDirect.com](http://www.CottageFarmsDirect.com)
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting Guides](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting%20Guides)
- [CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/FAQ)
- [Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com](mailto:Help@CottageFarmsDirect.com)
- [facebook.com/CottageFarms](https://facebook.com/CottageFarms)
- [@CottageFarms](https://twitter.com/CottageFarms)
- [888-593-3644](tel:888-593-3644)
- 9960 Padgett Switch Rd.  
Irvington, Alabama 36544

### Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following shipping season.

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.  
1-800-222-1222**

© 2018 Cottage Farms - Printed in USA



\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

### LILAC TREE

Your plant has been shipped to you in bare root form. Please remove the plant from the packaging right away and plant it as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant it right away, follow these important steps.

1. Place the plant in a cool, dark place such as a refrigerator, unheated garage or basement.
2. Keep the roots moist by using a spray bottle to mist them.

**Note:** The roots of your bare root plant are coated with Terra-Sorb® Hydrogel to protect them from drying out during handling and transport. It is suitable for planting and should be left on the roots. Simply plant your tree according to the instructions included in this guide.



SHIPPED AS A BARE ROOT TREE

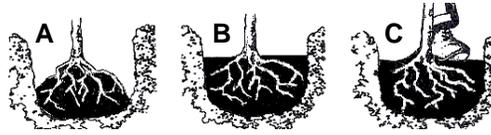
## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

**A** Prepare a hole large enough to give the roots plenty of room with a few inches of space beyond the roots and the sides of the hole. Build a mound of soil in the bottom of the hole on which to place the roots. Position the plant so that the area where the trunk meets the roots will be at ground level.

**B** Once the plant is positioned at the proper planting depth, begin filling the hole with soil. Work the soil around the roots with your hands, tamping the soil to remove any air pockets.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

**C** Fill the planting hole with water and let it soak in. Straighten the plant as needed, then finish filling the hole with soil.



**D** Form a "saucer" of soil around the edges of the planting hole and fill it with water.

**E** Stake the tree to allow strong roots to develop and to help keep it upright, particularly in windy conditions.



## CONTINUING CARE

**MULCHING** Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

**WEEDING** Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

**FEEDING** Feed your tree once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as **Cottage Farms' Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster (SKU #M7582)**. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plant can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

**PRUNING** Lilac trees may be pruned for size and shape, and to remove any dead or damaged growth in midsummer when the blooms begin to fade. To avoid removing developing flower buds, do not prune lilac trees in spring or fall. To ensure your tree keeps its form, remove any growth that appears on the trunk below the main branches and any growth coming up from the root system.

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

### WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

### WINTERIZING

Watering thoroughly in late fall will greatly enhance your plant's cold tolerance once the ground has frozen.

Lilac trees are incredibly hardy, but will benefit from mulching in very cold areas. The time to winterize your tree is in late fall. Keep in mind that the root system is the most vulnerable to cold damage. Mulch heavily by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of the tree to prevent winter damage.

In very cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter.

In spring, remove mulch from in-ground plantings. Containerized plants should be moved back out into the garden sunlight where they will begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.