

Lilac Shrubs and Trees

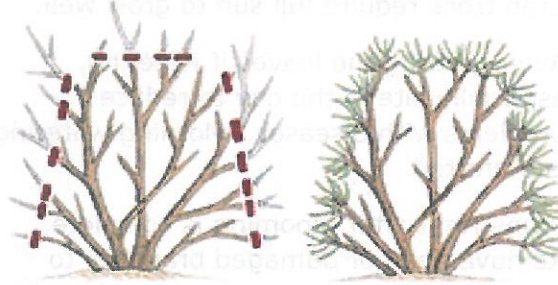
Fertilize Lilac shrubs and trees with Super Phosphate to help enhance growth and color, and to help strengthen stems and increase blooms.

Protect from rabbits, mice and deer in the winter months as they love tender wood.

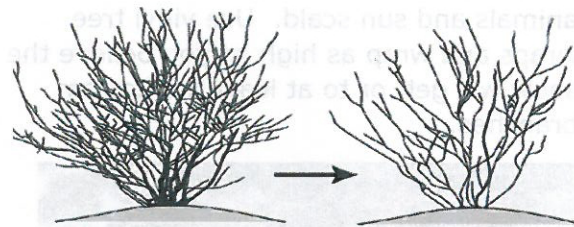
Prune Lilac shrubs and trees immediately after flowering each year. Thin out by first removing some of the oldest, heaviest branches. Be sure you do not remove more than 1/3 of the oldest, heaviest branches – this will not need to be done every year. Once this is complete, finish pruning to shape the plant. A sharp pruner should be used to be sure you have a clean cut to prevent ripping of the branches. Pruning too late will damage the following year's blooms. Spring flowering shrubs and trees such as Lilacs set their buds for the next years flowers right after they are done flowering. Lack of pruning will cause the plant to lose vigor and get woody thereby lowering the amount of bloom production.

General Pruning

When pruning shrubs & trees, be sure not to prune branches at the same points you did the previous year, this will cause a 'Witchs Broom'. It occurs when a cut/prune is done in the same area of the branch each year. Preventing sunlight to reach the inside of the plant.



It is important to know the proper time of the year in which you should prune your plants. Pruning plants at the improper time of year could be detrimental to their flowering and / or their survivability. Prune any spring flowering trees right after they are done blooming. Prune any non-flowering trees in late fall or early spring. Do not prune during or just following the initial growth of new leaves. At that time the tree's food storage is low.



General Protection

Protect from rabbits, mice & deer especially in the winter months, as they love the tender wood. Wrap trees in winter to protect from animals & sun scald. Wrap with vinyl tree wraps as high as you believe the snow will get, or to at least the bottom branches.

SPRING FLOWERING SHRUBS AND TREES



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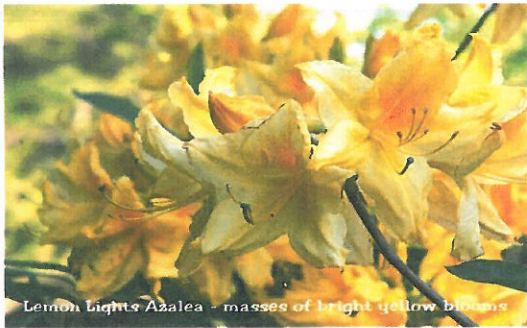
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Azaleas & Rhododendrons

Azaleas and Rhododendrons are classified as 'Broadleaf Evergreens' which means the leaves will dry up in winter and some may hold on throughout winter, but as the new growth emerges, it will push off the old foliage. These plants thrive in acidic soil. The most common problem with these plants is chlorosis or yellowing of the leaves. This is not a disease, but usually means that the soil is not sufficiently acidic. These roots are extremely shallow and they must be kept moist at all times. Mulch to help with moisture and to protect roots from the heat of summer and the cold winter. For acidifying your soil, fertilize with Aluminum Sulfate.

It is important to prune these plants at the proper time of the year. These plants should be pruned right after blooming has finished. Plants can be pruned hard to shape, but then leave them alone the rest of the year. Pruning too late will result in the loss of blooms for the next season.

Protect from rabbits, mice and deer, especially in the winter months as they like the tender wood.

Crab & Ornamental Trees

Crabapple trees are a relative of the apple. The fruit of crab trees ranges in size (very small ¼" to over 2") and color. The smaller fruit is easier for birds to eat and will make less of a mess in your yard. Crab trees require full sun to grow well.

Avoid wetting the leaves if watering, especially late in the day to reduce problems with diseases. Morning watering is preferred.

Prune right after blooming is complete. Remove dead or damaged branches to maintain the trees appearance and health. Remove any unwanted interior shoots and shoots that may be emerging from the ground (suckers), if this needs to be done, do this before the new leaves emerge. Minimal pruning of crabs will result in maximum flowering. Begin pruning all trees when they are young to shape as desired.

Wrap trees in winter to protect from animals and sun scald. Use vinyl tree wraps and wrap as high as you believe the snow will get, or to at least the bottom branches.



Magnolia and Forsythia

Little to no pruning is required. Magnolias prefer acidic soil, while forsythia is not as pH particular.

Prune right after blooming has finished. Buds will form during the summer for next year's flowers.

Branches from the Forsythia cut in late winter will flower indoors.

Protect from rabbits, mice and deer, especially in the winter months as they like the tender wood.

