

Gardeners Corner

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Quaymount
Quality Plants

The Undemanding Lilac

As beautiful and as useful as lilacs are, people are surprised to learn how undemanding their cultural requirements are. Nor are these splendid plants particularly susceptible to disease or pests.



There are but four basics for good lilac culture: good drainage, good soil, good sunlight, and good pruning. Given these, your lilac bushes will grow and blossom each year with little other care.

Choose the right range of varieties and you could have them flowering from the end of March to early June, depending on the season.

The common varieties are 'Madame Lemoine' (*double white*), 'Charles Joly' (*double purple red*), 'Souvenir de Louis Spaeth' (*single purple*). Extend the flowering time with S. Reflexa hybrids from Canada.

Best of all is the dwarf lilac palabin variety 'Josse'. The scent is heavenly and it flowers early.

So let's start planting these 'old fashion favourites'.

Paul Markwell *Owner*

Seasonal Tips

Early Spring in Your Garden...

Frost protection:

We can still get damaging frosts until the end of May! So be ready to protect any tender new growth with fleece, newspaper, etc.

Daffodils:

Don't be in a hurry to trim down the foliage after your daffodils have finished flowering. The nutrients are needed to go back into the bulb so it can flower next year.

We recommend you gently gather them up in small handfuls and tie them in a loose knot with garden twine, just to make them look tidy!



Keep seedlings and plants under protection:

Watch out for them drying out as temperatures soon rise when the sun comes out. Make sure you reduce the top temperatures by venting. With the rapid increase in day length, seedlings not pricked out will stretch. To avoid this, space trays out or better still prick out the seedlings when big enough to handle.



Plant Doctor

Got a question?

Email your question to info@quaymountplants.co.uk with the subject title 'Plant Doctor'. If your question gets printed you will receive a Quaymount 10% discount card for 2007!

Q Last year one of my bamboos died after it flowered and I'm worried about the others I planted. Will the seed germinate? **Dan Norwich**

A Although it is true that bamboos often die after flowering, their fate is not always sealed. It will depend on what sort of bamboo it is and how healthy they are. You could be lucky and have new shoots from the base of the plant in early summer. The seed will most likely not be viable, but sow it and give it a go!

Q How do I get a dense Leylandii hedge? **John Downham Market**

A It's best if you start right! So, leave the young conifers until the main shoot is at the desired height. Then, cut it back 30cm (a foot in old money) where it will re shoot. Keep cutting back the side-shoots by a third to help it thicken up. This type of hedge is not for the faint hearted you will be trimming at least once a year in July. It makes the best hedge if well maintained. Good Luck!

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01366 500691

www.quaymountplants.co.uk
info@quaymountplants.co.uk

The Nursery
The Row · Wereham
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PE33 9AY

