

From the Ground Up

Veggies to plant first:

Spring is here! Sometimes it seems it takes forever, but it always comes. Here are some tasty vegetables that can be planted early.

Radishes: Crunchy, spicy and fast-growing, radishes thrive in cooler temperatures.

Spinach: Spinach can be seeded early as the seed will germinate in low soil temperatures.

Peas: Peas thrive in cool weather and the peas that form will be sweeter and crunchier than those grown in summer. They will tolerate some frost.

Radishes are often delegated to a big tossed salad to add colour and crunch. Use your early harvest as the main ingredient in this tasty spring salad.

Gingery Radish Salad

- 2 bunches radishes
- 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
- ½ tsp. Freshly grated ginger
- Salt
- Cilantro or sorrel, coarsely chopped (optional)

Wash and trim the radishes. With a sharp knife or slicer, slice radishes as thinly as possible.

In a medium bowl, toss radishes with ginger and rice vinegar. Season to taste with salt. Garnish with cilantro or sorrel if desired. Serve immediately.



Sounds that soothe the senses

There is nothing as calming and relaxing as the subtle sound of trickling water. Adding this melodic sound to your yard will create a tranquil atmosphere. If you can place one close enough to the house where it can be heard through an open window it is an added bonus. Building your own water feature is quite easy. There are only a few basic components and the rest is up to your imagination. You need:

1. A large water tight container.
2. Small recirculating fountain pump, fountain kit heads
3. Grounded exterior electrical hook-up receptacle
4. Vinyl tubing
5. Water



There are also many ready made water features available for sale. All you have to do is place, pour in water and plug-in. Then put your feet up and enjoy the pleasant atmosphere.



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These sweetly scented harbingers of spring are among the most carefree of all shrubs. They have simple needs: plenty of sunlight, good drainage and fertile soil. If you choose your planting site carefully you will be rewarded every spring with abundant clusters of fragrant blooms.

Lovely Lilacs

The botanical name for lilacs is *syringa*, which is from a Greek word meaning "a pipe." The name was given because the stem is quite pithy and can be hollowed out. In fact, the Turks used the hollowed out stems to make pipes. The common name lilac is from the Arabic word *laylak* or the Persian word *nylac* both which mean blue.

Lilacs are hardy, long-lived plants. They are loved around the world for their carefree beauty and pleasant scent. Today in North America, lilacs planted decades and decades ago continue to bloom every spring giving us a brief glimpse of beauty.

There are 21 species of known lilacs at the present time. None of them are native to North America. They were brought over by early settlers and readily naturalized on this continent. Many varieties and cultivars exist. Common lilacs bear thick clusters of lavender flowers at the end of their branches every spring. The leaves of lilacs are distinctively heart shaped and a dark green. The shrub grows about fifteen feet tall and twelve feet wide. Varieties differ in color, ranging from white to pink to a dark purple.

Lilacs are an easy to grow performing best in full sun. They are tolerant of a range of soil types although they prefer well drained, slightly alkaline soil.

Lilacs are most attractive when they are in bloom and somewhat nondescript the rest of the season. Use complementary shrubs and plants to enhance their appearance before and after bloom. Avoid planting lilacs along walls or among large trees (or trees that will grow tall). Space lilacs a minimum of 6 feet apart. Crowding requires more frequent and drastic pruning.

Cutting off blooms from main stems within a week after blooms have faded will help the plant concentrate on preparing more flower buds and stimulate better flowering the following year. If your lilacs become too tall, and the number of blooms decline, you can rejuvenate the plant by cutting one-third of all main stems that have a diameter of at least 1.5 inches. Cut these main stems down to 12 to 15 inches from the soil. This will stimulate the growth of new shoots. Pruning in this way over a three-year period will refresh the plant while it still continues to flower.

Fertilizer should be applied at the base of the plant early each spring to help provide the plant with nutrients for the coming year. Buds are set the previous year so the fertilizer will feed this year's leaves and next year's bloom.

Remember to water your lilacs regularly throughout the summer. During the dry season, water more frequently to keep the leaves robust, not limp.

Using mulch will help hold water in the soil and reduce heat stress. If you see the leaves getting limp during summer it is a sign that the plant needs to be watered.

A list of our favourite lilac cultivars is on the following page.





- Syringa patula* 'Miss Kim'
Miss Kim Lilac (purple blooms)
- Syringa meyeri* 'Palibin'
Dwarf Korean Lilac (purple blooms)
- Syringa reticulata* 'Ivory Silk'
Ivory Silk Tree Lilac (white blooms)
- Syringa reticulata* 'Golden Eclipse'
Golden Eclipse Tree Lilac (white blooms)
- Syringa vulgaris* 'Sensation French'
Sensation Lilac (purple with white margins)
- Syringa vulgaris* 'Madame Lemoine'
Madame Lemoine Lilac (double white blooms)
- Syringa prestoniae* 'Donald Wyman'
Donald Wyman Lilac (single red-purple blooms)
- Syringa prestoniae* 'Minuet'
Minuet Lilac (pink-purple blooms)
- Syringa vulgaris* 'Charles Joly'
Charles Joly French Lilac (single red-purple blooms)
- Syringa prestoniae* 'Royalty'
Royalty Lilac (single purple blooms)

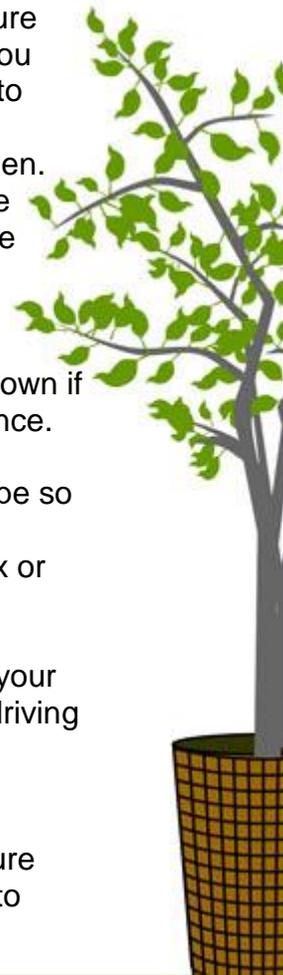


Transporting Trees

Purchasing a large mature tree is an investment. You must make every effort to care for it until it is well established in your garden. This starts when you are bringing it home from the Garden Centre.

1. Plan to lay the tree down if you are going any distance.
2. Bring tie straps or rope so you can fasten the tree securely to the truck box or trailer.
3. Bring a tarp to wrap your purchase, especially if driving at highway speeds.

Following these simple guidelines will help ensure your tree arrives safely to your garden.



Print these coupons and use at Unique Garden Centre

One free bottle of *Plant Start* with the purchase of a regular priced tree. (Minimum \$80.00 value)

One coupon per customer, while supplies last.
Not for use with other specials or promotions. In-store use only.

Expires June 15, 2014

25% off the regular price of any in-store ceramic or concrete bird bath.

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**Buy 2 shrubs and get a 3rd shrub* FREE.
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