



OGDEN'S DESIGN & PLANTINGS, INC.

WWW.OGDENS.COM

TEL: (631) 473-5064

HOW TO MAKE LILACS BLOOM

Design & Installation:

- Natural Gardens
- Japanese Gardens
- Bed Maintenance
- Therapeutic Gardens
- Paths & Patios
- Stone & Brickwork
- Specialty Gardens
- Seasonal Color & Interest

Spring To-Do List:

- Schedule spring clean-up
- Prepare vegetable and annual beds
- Prune roses
- Selectively prune shrubs
- Plants herbaceous perennials, roses, trees and shrubs
- Divide perennials
- Start up automated irrigation programs
- Set up peony hoops
- Plant spring annuals

Ogdenwords:

pH: a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a substance, such as soil, measured on a scale of 0-14 where 7 is neutral.

Alkaline soil: a soil with a pH value more than 7, or lime-rich.

There's nothing like the scent of fresh lilacs, so it can be rather disappointing when your garden shrubs produce no flowers. Trouble shooting is tricky, but there are a few questions you can ask yourself. Do your plants get enough sun? Are they being properly pruned? Might they need some nutrients?

A minimum of six hours of direct sunlight is ideal. If your shrubs are in a shady spot they won't set flower buds properly. Not only do they dislike competition for sunlight but they also hate to vie for root space with other bushes, so make sure they have plenty of space around them.

Since lilacs bloom on previous year's growth, there are two ways you will want to prune. First, removing spent flowers immediately after blooms fade stops seed development and encourages the creation of next year's buds. Cut only the flowers. Second, when you need to shape and resize your plant, pick out branches that stick up above all the others and prune them down towards the base of the plant. Doing this when the plant is in bloom provides you with plenty of flowers for

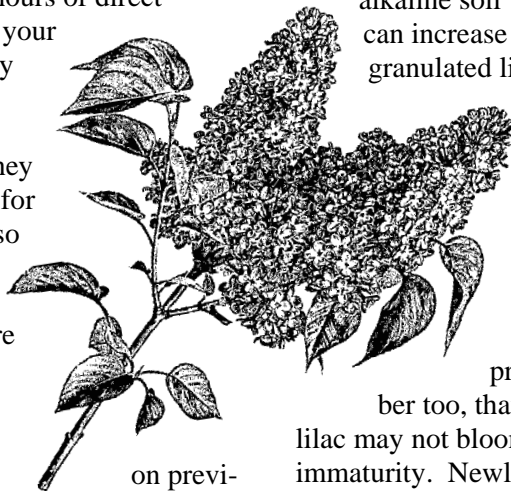
tabletop bouquets. The worst thing to do is shear straight across the top of the plant. This approach will never allow your lilac to flower since you remove the wood that will produce the flower buds for next year.

Soil and nutrients are also very important. Lilacs like well-drained, alkaline soil with a high pH. You can increase soil pH by adding granulated lime or wood ash

from your fireplace. Wood ash has the added benefit of providing nutrients like phosphorus and potassium, which will increase flower production. Remember too, that another reason your

lilac may not bloom is because of its immaturity. Newly installed or young plants need three and sometimes four years to grow and develop before they produce their first blooms.

We hope that by considering all these factors when caring for your lilacs, you will have gorgeous plants with lots of heavenly blooms. Our full service maintenance program can provide the necessary support needed to grow magnificent shrubs. Call our office to learn more.



Farm Lecture Series

Don't miss this one!

Summer Annuals and Alternatives to Impatiens
on Sunday, June 9th at 11am.

To keep up-to-date with all Ogden's events email public@ogdens.com or check www.ogdens.com



Wishing You A Scent-sational Spring!
Call (631) 473-5064