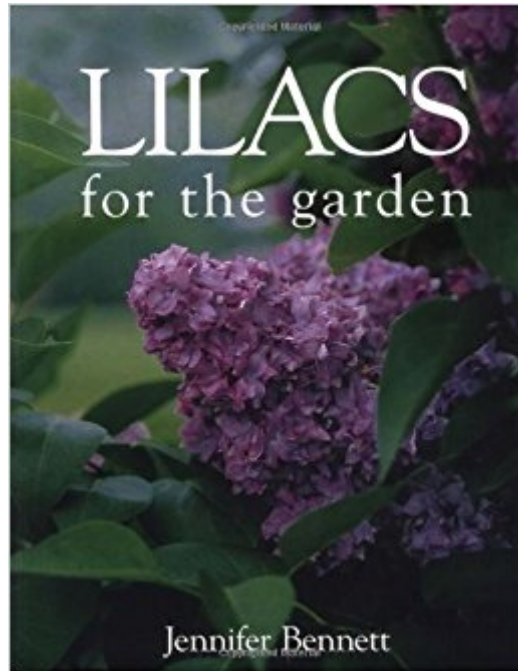


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Lilacs For The Garden



Synopsis

Jennifer Bennett has lived "lilac country" for more than 20 years, and is well placed to appreciate the lilac, which not only flourishes in cultivated gardens but roams wild across the countryside. Tracing the journey of a plant that will "grow well everywhere, in every soil," from its origins in Asia through Europe and the United Kingdom to North America some 250 years ago, Bennett brings this most familiar and glorious of flowers to vibrant life. The lilac's bloom is a sign of spring everywhere, but a lesser-known fact is that its emerging flowers are also used as indicators by farmers planning pest control and crop plantings and by scientists engaged in charting global warming. Filled with uncommon information about this common plant, Bennett's book features chapters on its history; planning, planting and pruning; the lilac's place in the landscape, whether alone, in groupings or with perennials; a species list of usual and unusual plants, with names that range from 'Charles Lindbergh' and 'Martha Stewart' to 'Charm' and 'Glory'; exotic lilacs for the adventurous connoisseur; and lilac aid, which addresses one of gardening's most vexing questions: "Why won't it bloom?" Lilacs for the Garden is a compendium of essential information for all who cherish this most resonant of garden companions. Whether you seek detail on plant requirements, mulching, grafting, fertilizing, multiplication, bloom time, fragrance, abiotic and biotic stresses, renovating neglected lilacs or a list of recommended species and where to find them, Bennett's latest book is an essential resource.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Firefly Books (May 4, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1552975622

ISBN-13: 978-1552975626

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 8.8 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,630,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #55 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Flowers > Annuals](#) #184 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Shrubs](#) #351 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Trees](#)

Customer Reviews

Bennett takes readers on a trip down memory lane to celebrate the lilac, a shrub many first encountered on a fragrant spring day at Grandmother's house. Waxing both nostalgic and rhapsodic, Bennett reintroduces this much-loved but underutilized shrub to a new generation of gardeners, extolling its virtues as a landscape plant: hardiness, drought-tolerance, and soil adaptability, not to mention its intoxicating fragrance and ethereal flowers. Where once lilacs were thought to thrive only in colder climes, Bennett highlights newer cultivars that tolerate hotter and dryer conditions. Stunning color photographs make you fall in love with them all over again. Carol Haggas

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An excellent book for the beginner or the veteran gardener. (Gerald Filipski The Edmonton Journal 2007-11-21) Total details on buying, planting, pruning, diseases and propagating from cuttings; for mail-order sources and public gardens with fine displays. (Kerry Moore Vancouver Province 2002-06-04) Perhaps every gardener's library should include a book dedicated to this fragrant shrub. (Susan Mulvihill Spokane Spokesman 2003-06-20) Plain language -- combined with Bennett's seemingly limitless lilac enthusiasm -- makes caring for these hearty plants sound doable, even for readers with only a green-ish thumb. (HGTV.com 2003-05-19) A lucid, beautifully illustrated (with over 90 stunning color photographs) tribute to this much-loved shrub... Well researched and written, Bennett's book is an invaluable resource for lilac amateurs and enthusiasts alike. It is highly recommended for any library's collection. (Rachael Green American Reference Books Annual, Volume 35) In simple plain language, you will learn how (and where and when) to plant lilacs, care for lilacs, be as much a friend to lilacs as they are to all of us. (Dan Hays Salem Statesman Journal 2002-08-04) Combines practical advice, personal observations, literary quotes and full-color photographs in an irresistible mix. (Jo Clavert Canadian Living 2003-04-01) Recommended ... The information is all there: what lilacs to select; how to plant, prune, maintain and propagate them; and what to observe when diagnosing pests. (Peter W. Bristol Chicago Botanical Garden 2003-05-11) Well-researched and -written, and lavishly illustrated, Bennett's book is an invaluable resource for the lilac lover. (Gardening Life 2002-06-01) Practical, thorough and informative ... a must-have for anyone interested in growing this gloriously hardy, sweet-smelling shrub. (Kitchener-Waterloo Record 2002-05-04) Full of gorgeous pictures, lilac facts ... and advice for selecting, planting, pruning and tending lilacs. (Beth Botts Chicago Tribune 2002-05-02) Beautifully illustrated ... likely to become a classic -- one of those you just can't bear to do without. (Jessie Deslauriers Kingston This Week 2002-05-03) After flipping through page after page of gorgeous

photographs, I'm hooked. (David Hobson Kitchener-Waterloo Record 2002-05-11)An excellent guide. (Steve Whysall Southam Newspapers 2002-05-18)Covers everything... easy to read and understand -- even as she delves into hybrids and cultivars. (Patty Jesome Edmonton Sun 2004-05-01)Detailed portraits... expert growing advice... prompted me to make room for four more of these beauties in my already crowded garden. (Beckie Fox Canadian Gardening)A great resource book. (Rhea Hamilton-Seeger The Rural Voice (Blyth ON) 2008-04-30)

I love to garden and love to read, you can never know enough about gardening and your favorite plants, You need to learn how totake care of the plants you like and keep the investment of plants alive.

Good book on everything lilacs

I have over 120 Lilac Bushes from around the world. This is a must if you want to do some research...it has helped me to name some of my unidentified bushes!

this was a gift for a friend and she was thrilled with it. Very well packed. Thank you so much!

Thanks

I am a knowledgeable lilac grower and have most of the Lilac Books but this one is a jewel. It is really well done and so readable and helpful. I highly recommend it.

Lilac boos

Lilacs for the Garden Jennifer BennettJohn C. Wister observed "Even with the casual attention we have given it, the lilac is the oldest and best loved American shrub."Now you might argue that the lilac is not the oldest shrub in North America, but for many people it seems like the oldest inhabitant of the gardens they knew as children. The gardens we grew up in - our parents, grand parents and great grandparents gardens all had lilacs. My grandmother had a white lilac growing in a square foot of compacted dirt - I refuse to call it soil - in an inner city neighbourhood that was as polluted as it could be. Even as a child I admired its survival skills. Yet in these days when we have a reasonable plot of ground and amended soil, how often do we choose to plant lilacs?Jennifer Bennet, author of

several gardening books, has done a thorough job of researching the lilac, the species officially known as *Syringa*. Most lilacs have come to us from the mountainous regions of Asia, although two species came from Eastern Europe to France. The French, enamoured by its perfume, transformed *Syringa vulgaris* into a wide variety of hybrids with larger clusters of flowers, a range of colours - from white through violet and magenta to purple. Lilacs came to North America with settlers during the 17th century. Some immigrants over 250 years old still grow on Mackinac Island, Michigan where there is a lilac festival every year. Another lilac festival is held annually in Rochester New York. And if you are looking for a major collection of lilacs, check out the Arnold Arboretum in Massachusetts, which has over 500 lilacs. The author, besides giving her readers a useful and detailed description of different varieties of lilac, also explains plant requirements, mulching, grafting fertilizing, stresses affecting lilacs and the best way to work with lilacs that have suffered from neglect. Her last chapter is a particularly useful "Lilac Aid: Why won't it bloom?" This is a well illustrated book, with most of the colour photographs taken by the author herself. There is a valuable resource list at the end, with mail order sources for the US and Canada, nurseries, public lilac collections and web sites with lilac information.

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