



HOPE SPRINGS NURSERY

LILACS FOR LESS

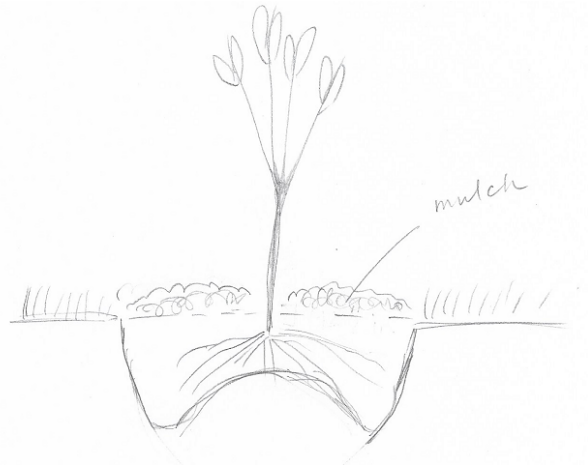
LILAC PLANTING AND CARE

Now that you've received your new lilac, here's what to do. It's nothing fancy, so don't panic!

Select a location with full sun and good drainage. Lilacs will not do well in partial shade or a soggy location.

Your hole should be large enough to accommodate the roots. Mound up some soil in the center of the hole and spread the roots out over the mound.

Cover the roots back up gently with the soil from the hole, firm down lightly (don't squash the roots!), and water in well to settle the soil and eliminate any air pockets. Water a few times during the first week, but don't drown the plant. The roots should be 1-2 inches below soil level. Don't set the plant too deep; you don't want the stem to rot in the soil.



In my display garden, I put several sheets of newspaper on the soil around the plant, then cover with a nice 2-inch layer of mulch. The newspaper will disintegrate and earthworms like it. Don't pile up a volcano of mulch around the stem! Again, you don't want the stem to rot.

Lilacs are generally pest and disease free. The worst problem I usually have in the nursery area is powdery mildew. It's a white coating on the leaves that happens later in the summer when it's humid or rainy, or if the plants are too close together and there's not enough air circulation. It looks terrible, but it won't hurt the plant and the leaves will be fine next year. There are various treatments that you can spray with, but you need to spray early in the season for prevention. Once you have it, there's not really much that will get rid of it.

The most important needs are full sun and good drainage! Don't go crazy fertilizing, they really don't need much.

There's a lot of good information, including videos, available online about pruning and rejuvenating older lilacs. If you have any questions, feel free to email me. Lilacs are pretty tough. It's a good idea to keep them pruned to a manageable height, or they can get too tall for you to see and smell the flowers. With some judicious pruning and thinning every year right after your flowers finish blooming, you'll be able to enjoy your lilacs for many years to come.