



The seven classifications for lilacs are based on color. Class I – white; Class II – violet; Class III – Blue; Class IV – lilac; Class V – pink; Class VI – magenta; and Class VII – purple. True yellow is so unusual that a separate class doesn't exist at this point in time – any flowers with a yellow or primrose hue will be found in the white classification. When denoting color within the species and cultivar, the classification will represent all active bloom colors of the flower. For example – a variegated magenta and white flower will be listed as Classes I and VI. Flowers that fade from white to pink will only be listed as Class I - the color present during the active blooming period rather than any flower fade-out coloring changes. Two classes have, historically, been rather elusive in development of true colors: Class III - blue and Class V - pink. Many of the early breeding attempts at producing either of those had resulted in purple hues in the flower coloring. The great lilac plantsman, John Fiala, set out to improve both the colors and forms available. Through years of dedication to breeding efforts, Fiala's work resulted in many outstanding new cultivars – including some true blue and clear pink colors with excellent form and disease resistance. An added thing to consider when planting either of those colors is that soil pH and environmental conditions will impact the hue within the flowers.