THUNBERG BUSH CLOVER CARE

LIGHT

Thunberg bush clover (Lespedeza thunbergii), including Gibraltar, flowers most freely in full sun. Some partial shade is tolerated. Place it where the long, arching stems can spill naturally over a wall or border edge without covering smaller neighboring plants.

WATER

Water deeply during establishment and check both the root ball and surrounding soil before watering again. Established plants tolerate drought, but a newly planted shrub still needs attention during dry weather. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling and do not keep the crown constantly saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Good drainage is essential; this shrub accepts a range of garden soils. Plant at the original nursery depth and allow for the mature fountain-shaped spread. Mulch lightly around the roots while keeping mulch away from the crown and emerging shoots.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy feeding that encourages oversized, floppy growth. Use a soil test if growth is consistently weak. If fertilizer is needed, apply a modest spring dose at the label rate and water afterward. Do not use fertilizer to compensate for poor drainage.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on new growth in late summer and early fall. Prune in late winter or early spring before new shoots develop, removing winter-killed stems. In cold gardens, the top may die back; allow time for basal growth before deciding that the plant has failed.

HELPFUL TIPS

Stems touching soil can root, and seedlings may appear nearby. Remove unwanted young plants and rooted branches promptly to contain its spread. Preserve its natural arching habit instead of repeated summer shearing, which removes flowering growth. This guide covers L. thunbergii rather than L. bicolor.