



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

HOSTA CARE

LIGHT

Grow hostas in partial or dappled shade, protected from hot afternoon sun and drying wind. Blue-leaved varieties retain their color best with shade; some gold and fragrant varieties tolerate more morning sun when moisture is reliable. Follow the cultivar label for exposure and mature size.

WATERING

Keep the root zone evenly moist while plants establish and during dry spells. Water deeply at soil level, then check before watering again. Container plants dry faster than garden plants. Brown leaf edges can signal drought or excessive sun; continually soggy soil can cause crown and root rot.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose fertile, moisture-retentive soil that drains well. Incorporate compost before planting and set the root ball at its original soil level. Space for the mature spread, which varies greatly between miniature and giant types. Miniature hostas particularly need good drainage; use pots with drainage holes.

FERTILIZING

An annual compost mulch often supplies enough nutrients in fertile garden soil. Use a soil test and plant performance to decide whether additional fertilizer is needed; follow the product label. Containers may need supplemental feeding during active growth. Keep mulch and fertilizer clear of the crown.

FLOWERS & DIVISION

Enjoy the summer flower spikes or remove them after flowering. Divide crowded clumps in early spring as shoots emerge, keeping roots and growing points on each division. Replant promptly at the original depth and water well. Healthy clumps can remain undisturbed for years.

SEASONAL CARE

Leaves naturally die back after frost; remove dead foliage and spent stalks. Protect tender spring shoots during late freezes. Watch for slugs, snails, deer and rabbits. Have unusual mottling or distorted growth identified before dividing plants. Hostas are toxic to pets; prevent chewing and ingestion.