



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

ORIENTAL ARBORVITAE CARE

LIGHT

Oriental arborvitae, formerly *Thuja orientalis* and now *Platycladus orientalis*, includes Franky Boy and Morgan. Provide sun to light shade, air circulation, and shelter from harsh winter wind. Check the selection's cold hardiness for your Maine site rather than assuming it matches American arborvitae.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain and drainage rather than following a fixed daily schedule. Continue checking during dry autumn weather until the ground freezes.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained soil and avoid waterlogged winter ground. Keep the root flare and any graft above soil; mulch lightly without touching stems. Protect roots from compaction. Containers need drainage holes, moisture checks, and suitable winter root protection; mulch cannot make an unsuitable site hardy.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy plants may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, use a modest spring application of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen and late-season feeding; browning is not automatically evidence of a nutrient deficiency.

SEASONAL CARE

Allow the natural rounded, conical, or threadlike outline to develop. Remove damaged shoots selectively and shape only within green growth. Avoid hard cutting into bare wood and repeated shearing of Franky Boy's fine foliage. Protect plants from falling roof snow and damaging ice loads.

HELPFUL TIPS

Morgan normally changes from chartreuse or green to copper-orange in winter. Franky Boy has threadlike foliage; these features are not signs of disease. Brown, brittle tissue or expanding bare areas need investigation. Allow room for continued growth rather than assuming a dwarf stops growing.