STELLAR RUBY MAGNOLIA CARE

LIGHT

Stellar Ruby is a Magnolia figo hybrid, an evergreen banana-scented magnolia. Grow it in sun to partial shade with shelter from cold winds. It is a warm-climate selection, not interchangeable with hardy deciduous magnolias; verify winter suitability before planting outdoors permanently in Maine.

WATER

Water slowly and deeply after planting, then check both the root ball and surrounding soil before watering again. Keep roots evenly moist while the plant establishes. A new tree needs regular checks in dry or windy weather even when nearby established plants look comfortable.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained soil and avoid a waterlogged root zone. Keep the root flare visible and mulch lightly away from the trunk. For container culture, use a freely draining potting mix and a pot with drainage holes; do not leave it standing in collected water.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and any pH amendments. Do not add lime automatically or push a healthy plant with heavy nitrogen. If feeding is needed, apply a modest spring dose of woody-plant fertilizer at the label rate, keeping it away from the trunk.

SEASONAL CARE

Its naturally dense foliage needs little pruning. If light shaping is needed, prune after the spring bloom and avoid repeated clipping of later flowers. Remove dead or damaged growth selectively. Preserve its upright habit rather than applying the hard pruning used for some flowering shrubs.

HELPFUL TIPS

The breeder lists USDA zones 7-9. In a colder garden, use a container that can be moved to a bright, frost-free winter location rather than relying on mulch alone. Ruby-colored, banana-scented flowers may recur after spring. Evergreen leaves still shed gradually as they age.