



FALSE INDIGO BAPTISIA CARE

LIGHT

False indigo (*Baptisia australis* and identified garden hybrids) flowers best in full sun. Give the clump room for light and airflow. Too much shade can produce long, leaning stems. American Goldfinch, Cherries Jubilee, and other selections vary in color and size, so check the cultivar label.

WATER

Water new plants deeply when their root zone begins to dry. Established baptisia tolerates drought better after its deep roots develop, but a new nursery root ball still needs regular attention. Avoid continually soggy soil and repeated shallow sprinkling. Containers require closer checking than a settled garden clump.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use average, well-drained soil and set the crown at the nursery level. Choose the location carefully because mature baptisia develops deep roots and can be difficult to move. Leave enough space for its eventual mound rather than planting close to small neighboring perennials that it may shade.

FEEDING

Heavy nitrogen feeding is usually unnecessary and can encourage weak stems. Check light, drainage, and root competition before fertilizing a sparse plant. A soil test can guide any needed nutrients. Keep concentrated fertilizer off the crown and follow the label instead of trying to force rapid establishment.

SEASONAL CARE

Leave the seedpods if their appearance is wanted, or remove spent flower stems before pods develop. Light shaping after flowering can keep the clump tidy. Clear dead stems before new spring shoots expand. Do not repeatedly divide an established plant as a routine way to control its size.

HELPFUL TIPS

A young plant may take time to build its full framework. New shoots can emerge later than nearby spring perennials, so wait before digging it up. This is an ornamental, not an edible bean crop. Keep pods away from children and pets, and use the cultivar label to confirm identity.