



LEUCOTHOE CARE

LIGHT

Evergreen leucothoe grows best in partial shade with shelter from drying winds. Brighter light can improve seasonal foliage color where moisture remains reliable. Avoid hot, exposed sites. Cultivar hardiness varies, so check the label before planting in an exposed Maine garden.

WATER

Keep the root zone consistently moist, especially during establishment and summer drought. Water the original root ball thoroughly and check it regularly. Do not let newly planted roots repeatedly dry out. Moisture should be reliable while excess water can move away from the planting area.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use acidic, organic, moisture-retentive soil and plant at nursery depth. Mulch lightly over the roots, leaving stem bases clear. Choose a sheltered woodland-style location with enough space for arching branches and new basal shoots. Avoid burying the crown under soil or mulch.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide pH changes. If feeding is needed, apply a modest spring fertilizer suitable for acid-loving shrubs according to label directions. Excess feeding is unnecessary. Check soil chemistry, moisture and winter exposure when foliage looks unhealthy.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune selectively after flowering to preserve bloom and the natural arching form. Remove dead or damaged stems and thin older growth only as needed. Major renewal should be planned carefully for a healthy plant. Avoid routine hard fall shearing.

HELPFUL TIPS

Suckers may gradually form a colony; remove unwanted shoots where space is limited. Some winter bronzing or red color is normal for selected cultivars, but scorched or dying foliage needs investigation. Plant parts should not be eaten. Deciduous species need separate care.