



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

WOODLAND PHLOX CARE

LIGHT

Woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) and creeping woodland phlox (*P. stolonifera*) thrive in partial or dappled shade. Woodland phlox tolerates deeper shade, while stolonifera can accept more sun with adequate moisture. Protect both from hot, drying sites. These are different from sun-loving moss phlox.

WATERING

Keep the root zone moist while plants establish, particularly during their first summer. Water deeply at soil level when the soil begins drying, rather than sprinkling foliage every day. Established stolonifera tolerates some drought, but a dry, exposed site can stress either type and encourage spider mites.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose loose, organically enriched soil with good drainage. Plant at the same depth as in the nursery pot and water well. Allow room for spreading leafy shoots; stolonifera roots along its stems to form a mat. Avoid burying the crown or covering the foliage with mulch.

FERTILIZING

A modest compost top-dressing supports woodland soil conditions. Additional fertilizer is usually unnecessary in a reasonably fertile bed. If growth is weak, first check moisture, drainage and root competition. Use a soil test before adding nutrients, and follow product directions rather than feeding heavily.

FLOWERS & SPREAD

Enjoy the spring flowers, then trim spent flower stems while retaining healthy basal foliage. This tidies the planting and limits self-seeding. Lift rooted portions of an expanding mat when needed, keeping roots attached; replant promptly and water well. Maintain space around neighboring plants.

SEASONAL CARE

Clear away leaves that smother the mat and remove dead or diseased growth. Maintain air circulation to reduce powdery mildew, particularly on *divaricata*. Watch for mites during hot weather and slugs where conditions stay wet. Woodland phlox may be browsed by rabbits; inspect damage before choosing controls.