KNAUTIA THUNDER AND LIGHTNING CARE

LIGHT

Thunder and Lightning is a variegated Knautia macedonica grown for pale-edged foliage and airy, dark flower heads. Give it a sunny position with airflow. Strong light supports flowering, but avoid a hot, confined container where the roots repeatedly dry and the pale leaf margins scorch.

WATER

Water thoroughly during establishment, then allow the soil to drain and dry somewhat between waterings. Established plants tolerate some dryness, but newly planted roots need regular checks. Avoid keeping the crown continually wet. Water the soil directly when possible rather than leaving foliage damp overnight.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained soil of moderate fertility and plant at the original crown level. Leave space for the wiry flowering stems to move naturally among neighbors. Rich, wet soil can encourage weak growth. In containers, choose a stable pot with drainage rather than a small, easily dried-out decorative vessel.

FEEDING

Feed modestly only if the soil or growth indicates a need. Excess nitrogen can make stems more likely to flop. Check light, drainage, and root competition before increasing fertilizer. Follow the labeled rate for flowering perennials and do not apply strong fertilizer to dry, stressed roots.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove faded heads to encourage a tidy, prolonged display and reduce unwanted seedlings. Support stems discreetly if needed rather than tying the whole plant tightly into a bundle. Clear dead growth after the season or in spring. Retain healthy basal foliage and avoid injuring the crown while tidying.

HELPFUL TIPS

This guide is for the named variegated selection, sold in the catalog under the common name Egyptian Rose. It is a knautia, not a rose shrub. Check the cultivar when replacing or dividing plants, and remove vigorous solid-green reversions if they begin to overtake the variegated foliage.