



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

HUMMINGBIRD MINT CARE

LIGHT

Hummingbird mints, including rupestris types and many colorful hybrids, need full sun for best bloom. Choose a warm, open position with good air circulation. Check each cultivar's mature size and hardiness; this group includes selections with different cold tolerances.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and during establishment, then allow soil to dry somewhat between waterings. Established plants are often drought tolerant, but garden hybrids may need moderate summer moisture. Avoid frequent shallow irrigation and never leave containers standing in water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Excellent drainage is essential, especially in winter. Use well-drained mineral soil; gravelly or sandy sites often suit these plants better than wet clay. Plant at nursery depth and keep the crown clear. Raised beds can help where winter drainage is poor.

FEEDING

Feed lightly, if at all, in average garden soil. Too much fertilizer or rich compost can produce weak stems and fewer flowers. For containers, follow a modest feeding program at the product's labeled rate. Do not use fertilizer to compensate for insufficient light.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove spent flower spikes for continued bloom where the cultivar responds. Avoid severe pruning late in fall. Leave sound stems through winter, then trim back in spring as growth resumes. Keep wet leaves and heavy, moisture-holding mulch off the crown.

HELPFUL TIPS

Confirm the cultivar's hardiness zone for your Maine site; some selections may need seasonal use or protected container overwintering. Even hardy cultivars can fail in saturated winter soil. Aromatic foliage is not a guarantee of edibility. Use the separate anise hyssop guide for foeniculum, rugosa and the blue hybrids assigned to that group.