



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

MUGO PINE CARE

LIGHT

Mugo pine (*Pinus mugo*) needs plenty of sun for dense growth. Its cultivars range from low mounds to broad upright plants. Mops, Slowmound, Enci, Big Tuna, and Tannenbaum are not interchangeable in size, so allow space for the exact selection's mature outline.

WATER

Water the original root ball and surrounding soil deeply when they begin to dry. New pines need regular checks through the first growing seasons, including dry autumn weather. Allow drainage between waterings. Do not assume rain has reached a dense root ball beneath the branches.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in well-drained soil with the root flare near the surface. Do not bury the crown of a low-growing selection under mulch. Keep drainage open around the planting, especially through winter. Use a container with drainage holes if growing a dwarf plant in a pot, and protect container roots in severe cold.

FEEDING

Feed according to a soil test and plant vigor rather than a strong annual routine. Poor drainage, drought, or an unsuitable site cannot be corrected with extra nitrogen. Follow the label for any recommended application and keep fertilizer away from the trunk and dry, stressed roots.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve the cultivar's natural framework and remove damaged branches selectively. If size control is needed, lightly shorten soft new spring candles before needles fully expand. Avoid cutting into bare old wood, which may not refill. Do not top the plant or apply intensive bonsai pruning to a landscape specimen.

HELPFUL TIPS

Mugo pines can outgrow a narrow space even when sold as dwarf plants. Candle shortening may slow extension but cannot reliably turn an oversized shrub into a tiny one. Preserve live needles on retained branches. Some old interior needles shed naturally; repeated outer tip loss needs diagnosis.