



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

AUSTRIAN PINE CARE

LIGHT

Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) grows in full sun. Standard trees become substantial landscape specimens, while selections such as Helga are smaller. Check the cultivar's eventual size and allow room from walls, paths, and wires instead of planning to maintain it by repeated hard pruning.

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

Use well-drained soil and plant at the root-flare level. Austrian pine tolerates varied soils after establishment, but a wet planting hole is unsuitable. Mulch over the root area without touching the trunk. Avoid compacting soil or damaging roots with construction and repeated foot traffic.

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

Austrian pine can develop needle diseases and shoot blights, so expanding brown tips or bands on needles should be identified before treatment. Do not assume every brown shoot is winter burn. Compare new growth with older interior needles and seek help with a clear photo or sample if decline progresses.