



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

DECIDUOUS FLOWERING MAGNOLIA CARE

LIGHT

Spring-flowering deciduous magnolias, including star, saucer, Loebner, and named garden hybrids, grow in full sun to partial shade. Choose a permanent location sheltered from strong winds. Avoid a heat-reflecting south-facing wall that encourages flowers to open early and risk frost damage.

WATER

Water slowly and deeply after planting, then check both the root ball and surrounding soil before watering again. Keep roots evenly moist while the plant establishes. A new tree needs regular checks in dry or windy weather even when nearby established plants look comfortable.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil, generally acidic to neutral. Keep the root flare visible and any graft above ground. Mulch around the roots without piling against stems. Allow room for the cultivar's mature canopy and avoid digging or compacting soil over its fleshy surface roots.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and any pH amendments. Do not add lime automatically or push a healthy plant with heavy nitrogen. If feeding is needed, apply a modest spring dose of woody-plant fertilizer at the label rate, keeping it away from the trunk.

SEASONAL CARE

Most magnolias need very little pruning. Remove damaged or rubbing branches selectively and do any light shaping just after the main flower display. Avoid topping, hard renovation, and routine shearing. Preserve the natural single- or multi-stemmed framework rather than forcing a mature plant into a smaller space.

HELPFUL TIPS

Late frost can brown flowers without killing the tree. Flower timing and occasional later blooms vary by cultivar; winter leaf loss is normal. This guide excludes sweetbay, umbrella, southern evergreen magnolias, and Stellar Ruby, which have separate moisture, exposure, or cold-weather guidance.