ORNAMENTAL CLOVER CARE

LIGHT

Ornamental white-clover selections (Trifolium repens), including Lucky and 4 Luck Red Stripes, grow in sun to partial shade. Good light helps show their leaf markings, while some shade can reduce heat stress in containers. Allow room for a low mat, and choose a place where spreading stems can be managed.

WATER

Water slowly after planting and check the root ball and nearby soil before watering again. Keep roots evenly moist during establishment without saturation. Adjust for rain, heat, and drainage rather than a fixed schedule; new plants need checking before established neighbors show stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use average, well-drained soil that retains some moisture. Plant at nursery depth and keep the growing tips clear of thick mulch. Clover creeps by stems that root at nodes, so monitor boundaries. For containers, use a draining potting mix and do not leave pots standing in collected water.

FEEDING

Clover fixes atmospheric nitrogen through its root associations and generally does not need heavy nitrogen feeding. Use a soil test to identify other nutrient or pH needs. If a container planting needs fertilizer, use a modest label-rate dose. Excess feeding can promote soft growth without improving ornamental leaf markings.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove damaged foliage and trim wayward runners to keep a tidy mat. Plants tolerate clipping, but repeated hard cutting removes the ornamental leaf display. Divide or replant healthy rooted sections when a container becomes crowded. Prevent escape into beds where a vigorous mat would compete with smaller plants.

HELPFUL TIPS

Three- and occasional four-leaflet leaves and red or dark markings are cultivar traits. These are Trifolium, distinct from Oxalis plants also sold as shamrocks. White flowers attract pollinators. Seasonal color can vary with weather and light; do not assume a change in markings calls for more fertilizer.