For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

FORSYTHIA CARE

LIGHT

Forsythia grows in full sun to light shade, with the strongest spring flowering in sun. Check the cultivar label for size and flower-bud hardiness. Give arching branches enough room; compact selections are easier to fit beside paths and foundations.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the original root ball regularly while the shrub establishes. After establishment, water deeply during extended drought. Avoid daily light sprinkling and sites where roots remain waterlogged. Check soil moisture before responding to wilt with more water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in well-drained garden soil. Forsythia tolerates a range of soil conditions, but good drainage helps root health. Use a wide planting hole and mulch the surrounding soil, keeping mulch clear of the stems.

FEEDING

If needed, apply a modest shrub fertilizer in spring according to soil-test results and label directions. Heavy feeding is not a remedy for poor flowering. Review sunlight, pruning history and winter bud injury before assuming the plant needs more nutrients.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune just after spring flowering. Remove selected oldest canes near ground level and shorten awkward branches selectively. Flowers form on last year's wood; late summer, fall or winter shearing removes future blooms. Preserve the natural fountain shape whenever space allows.

HELPFUL TIPS

A shrub may survive winter while its flower buds are damaged by cold. Choose cultivars suited to the site and expect bloom to vary after severe winters. Watch for dieback or abnormal stem swellings. Remove unwanted suckers or rooted branch tips to control spread.