



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SPREADING BORDER BELLFLOWER CARE

LIGHT

Takesimana and related border hybrids, including Elizabeth, Pink Octopus and Sarastro, grow in sun to partial shade. Their hanging or unusually divided flowers stand over leafy clumps. Give them space among sturdy neighbors and check each cultivar label for height and spread.

WATER

Water new plants deeply until established. Maintain moderate moisture during the growing season, particularly in hot or dry weather. Allow excess water to drain freely. Avoid constantly wet winter crowns and do not rely on a shaded position to eliminate watering needs.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in well-drained garden soil. Allow room for spreading rhizomes, keeping the crown clear of heavy mulch. Choose a location where wandering shoots can be removed easily. Avoid planting beside tiny alpiners or other easily overwhelmed plants.

FEEDING

Feed modestly only where needed, following label directions. Very rich soil or excess nitrogen can encourage too much leafy growth. A light addition of compost around the planting is preferable to repeatedly burying the crown under amendments.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove finished flower stalks for tidiness and to reduce unwanted seed. Retain healthy leaves until they decline. Inspect the edges of the clump during the growing season and lift unwanted rooted shoots. Divide crowded clumps in spring or early fall when necessary.

HELPFUL TIPS

Spreading strength varies by cultivar; takesimana types can be particularly vigorous. Check regularly rather than assuming all hybrids stay in a tight clump. Watch for slug damage, mildew and crown problems. This guide covers identified perennial border types, not creeping bellflower weeds or biennial Canterbury bells.