CULVERS ROOT CARE

LIGHT

Culver's root (Veronicastrum virginicum) is a tall perennial with slender flower spikes and whorled leaves. Grow in full sun for sturdy stems and good flowering. Light shade is tolerated, but stems may need support. Give it space toward the back of a border or in a meadow planting.

WATER

Keep new plants consistently moist while they establish. This species prefers average to moist or periodically wet soil and needs more reliable moisture than dry-rock-garden speedwells. Water deeply during drought rather than allowing repeated wilting. Monitor newly planted roots even in naturally moist beds.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in moisture-retentive garden soil. It adapts to several soil textures, including loam and clay. Allow generous mature spacing and avoid crowding the crown. A light mulch between plants conserves moisture while leaving the stem bases uncovered.

FEEDING

Use compost or a modest spring feeding if the soil is poor. Follow fertilizer directions and avoid excessive nitrogen, which can encourage weak stems. Water and suitable light are more important than repeated feeding when an establishing clump grows slowly.

SEASONAL CARE

Leave healthy foliage through the growing season. Remove faded spikes for possible additional flowers, or retain seed heads for winter structure. Cut dead stems after dormancy or in spring. Provide support early if needed and avoid unnecessary lifting of a young clump.

HELPFUL TIPS

Be patient: Culver's root can take several seasons to establish a full clump. Mature height varies by selection, so follow the label. This is Veronicastrum, distinct from both upright and creeping Veronica. Watch for leaf damage or mildew and maintain good spacing. Do not use ornamental roots as home remedies.