



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

MOUNTAIN LAUREL CARE

LIGHT

Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) grows best with morning sun and afternoon shade or bright, dappled light. Avoid hot reflected sun and drying winter winds. Check cultivar size and hardiness; compact selections and full-sized plants need different amounts of room.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the original root ball regularly during establishment. Keep shallow roots evenly moist through dry periods without saturating the soil. Water the ground slowly rather than relying on brief sprinkling. Continue moisture checks into fall before the soil freezes.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use acidic, humus-rich, well-drained soil. Keep the root ball surface at surrounding ground level and avoid planting deeply. Heavy clay or constantly wet ground is unsuitable. Mulch the root zone lightly to keep it cool, leaving stem bases clear.

FEEDING

Test the soil before adjusting pH. If needed, use a modest spring fertilizer suitable for acid-loving shrubs according to the label. Heavy feeding is unnecessary and will not correct poor drainage. Investigate yellowing foliage before adding fertilizer or acidifying products.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune lightly just after flowering, since future flowers develop on older wood. Remove spent clusters carefully without damaging the next shoots. Avoid routine fall shearing. Check winter-damaged branches for living buds before removing uncertain growth in spring.

HELPFUL TIPS

Provide a sheltered position and room for airflow. Watch for leaf spots, lace bugs or persistent root stress. Plant parts are poisonous if eaten. This guide covers mountain laurel; sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*) and other laurel species require separate identification.