



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

DWARF ALBERTA SPRUCE CARE

LIGHT

Dwarf Alberta types include Conica, Humpty Dumpty, Jean's Dilly, Rainbow's End, and Sanders Blue. Provide good light with protection from harsh reflected heat and drying winter exposure. Light afternoon shade can help on exposed sites. Allow air movement around the dense foliage rather than crowding plants against walls.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain and drainage rather than watering by the calendar. Direct irrigation to the soil, avoiding routine overhead watering that leaves needles wet.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained soil and mulch lightly with the trunk clear. Keep the root flare and any graft above soil. Containers need drainage holes and frequent moisture checks; their exposed roots need winter protection. These are outdoor hardy conifers, unsuitable for prolonged display in a warm indoor room.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy spruces may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, use a modest spring application of tree fertilizer at the label rate. Keep fertilizer off stems, avoid heavy nitrogen, and do not try to cure browning by feeding automatically.

SEASONAL CARE

Little pruning is needed to retain the natural compact form. Remove any vigorous, coarse shoots that revert to ordinary spruce growth at their origin. Use only light shaping in green growth if necessary; do not cut into bare interior wood. Check trained topiary carefully rather than repeatedly shearing every plant.

HELPFUL TIPS

Watch for spruce spider mites if needles become stippled, dull, or brown; confirm the cause before treating. Winter drying and root stress can cause similar symptoms. Rainbow's End has yellow new growth and Sanders Blue has blue tones; cultivar color alone is not evidence of nutrient deficiency.