



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

NORTHERN SPICEBUSH CARE

LIGHT

Northern spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) prefers partial shade. It can grow in sun with more dependable moisture, while deep shade produces a looser, broader plant. Allow room for its rounded mature form rather than fitting it into a narrow clipped hedge.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and keep the root area evenly moist during establishment. Plants in sunnier places need closer attention in dry weather. Check under the mulch before watering and wet the surrounding soil as well as the original nursery root ball.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose moist, well-drained, humus-rich soil. Plant at the original nursery depth and spread mulch over the root zone without touching the stems. Leave room for roots to expand and avoid repeated digging or soil compaction close to the base.

FEEDING

Heavy feeding is usually unnecessary in suitable garden soil. Use a soil test if growth remains weak after moisture and site conditions have been checked. If fertilizer is needed, apply it in spring at the label rate and water it into the soil.

SEASONAL CARE

Little routine pruning is needed. Remove dead or damaged branches and retain the natural branching pattern. If light shaping is necessary, work after the early spring flowers fade. Avoid repeated shearing, which reduces the informal woodland character and can remove developing fruit.

HELPFUL TIPS

A male plant is needed to pollinate female plants for red fruit; a lone shrub may flower without setting berries. Yellow autumn foliage is normal. Leaves may feed spicebush swallowtail caterpillars. This guide covers *L. benzoin*, including Scarlet Lady, rather than Asian spicebush.