GLOSSY ABELIA CARE

LIGHT

Glossy abelia (Abelia x grandiflora) and Edward Goucher flower best in full sun. Light shade is acceptable, but dense shade reduces flowering. In cold gardens, choose a sheltered position away from drying winter winds and road-salt runoff.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and keep the root ball evenly moist while roots establish. Check the soil before watering again; avoid constant saturation. Established shrubs tolerate some dry weather, but prolonged drought calls for a slow, deep soaking.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained garden soil. Dig a broad planting hole and set the root ball at its original soil level. Spread a light layer of mulch over the root area, keeping it clear of the stems. Space for the cultivar's mature width.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy feeding, especially when growth is already vigorous. If a soil test or weak growth indicates a need, apply a shrub fertilizer in spring at the label rate. Water it in and keep fertilizer away from the crown.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on new growth. Prune selectively in late winter or early spring, removing dead stems and shortening awkward shoots to a branch. In cold sites, wait until buds reveal winter damage. Repeated summer shearing reduces flowers and spoils the arching shape.

HELPFUL TIPS

Cold-climate leaf loss and some stem dieback can occur; check the cultivar's hardiness before planting. This guide does not cover Sweet Emotion or Sweet Emotion Blaze hardy abelia, which bloom on old wood and need different pruning timing.