



ASTILBE CARE

LIGHT

Astilbes prefer partial or dappled shade. Morning sun can be suitable where soil stays moist, but hot afternoon exposure may scorch the foliage. Deep shade can reduce flowering. Give each variety room for its mature height and spread; compact and tall varieties need different spacing.

WATERING

Keep the root zone consistently moist through the growing season. Water newly planted astilbes thoroughly and check them often during heat or dry weather. Established plants also need deep watering when soil begins to dry. These perennials do not tolerate prolonged drought, but their roots should not sit in stagnant water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use humus-rich, moisture-retentive garden soil that still drains. Improve poor ground with compost before planting and set the crown at its nursery depth. Mulch around the clump to conserve moisture, keeping stems and crown clear. Container plants need drainage holes and especially careful moisture checks.

FERTILIZING

Plants in rich soil usually need little additional fertilizer. Refresh organic matter with compost as needed and use a soil test if growth is weak. If feeding is necessary, follow the labeled rate for perennials. Check moisture and sun exposure before assuming brown foliage signals a nutrient deficiency.

FLOWERS & DIVISION

Bloom time varies by species and cultivar, so combine early and later varieties for a longer display. Faded plumes can remain for texture rather than being removed immediately. Divide crowded clumps in spring about every four years, replanting vigorous sections and watering them carefully as they establish.

WINTER & PROBLEMS

Allow plants to die back naturally in fall. Healthy dry stems and plumes may remain through winter; remove old growth in spring before new shoots expand. Keep crowns from drying or heaving out of the ground. Brown, crisp leaves often reflect drought or sun scorch. Inspect damaged plants for pests and drainage problems.