



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

BLACK CHOKEBERRY CARE

LIGHT

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) grows in full sun to partial shade. Good light supports a dense plant, spring flowers and autumn color. Cultivars range from low groundcovers to upright shrubs, so check the mature size rather than assuming all chokeberries grow alike.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the original root ball regularly through establishment. Established chokeberries tolerate a range of moisture conditions, including occasional wet soil. Continue watering during prolonged drought. A newly planted shrub should not be left to dry out simply because the species is adaptable.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in average garden soil, leaving room for mature branching. Black chokeberry adapts to many soil types. Mulch the root zone to conserve moisture and limit weeds, keeping mulch away from the stem bases. Avoid burying the crown.

FEEDING

Feed only if growth or a soil test indicates a need. Use a modest spring shrub fertilizer at the labeled rate. Heavy feeding is unnecessary for healthy established plants. Check moisture, planting depth and root conditions before treating weak growth as a nutrient deficiency.

SEASONAL CARE

Pruning is usually limited. Flowers form on older wood; trim after flowering if shape needs correction, understanding that flowering shoots also carry the developing fruit. Avoid repeated late-season shearing. Remove damaged stems and unwanted suckers as needed.

HELPFUL TIPS

Suckers can form a colony. Retain them in a naturalized planting or remove them where space is limited. Fruiting varies by cultivar; Low Scape Hedger is nonfruiting. This guide covers black chokeberry, with red chokeberry kept separate.