



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

RED VALERIAN CARE

LIGHT

Red valerian (*Centranthus ruber*, also called *Valeriana rubra* or Jupiter's beard) grows best in sun. Choose an airy position with freely draining soil rather than a rich, shaded bed. Its clusters of pink-red flowers can repeat well where summer conditions are favorable.

WATER

Water new plants when the root zone begins to dry, allowing the soil to drain afterward. Established plants tolerate relatively dry conditions. Avoid persistently wet crowns and frequent lawn sprinkling. A container still needs checking during warm weather, especially while a nursery root ball is becoming established.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained soil and plant at the nursery crown level. Leaner sites are preferable to a heavily enriched, moisture-holding pocket. Keep mulch clear of the stems. Allow space for the clump and access for deadheading, since controlling seed production is an important part of maintaining this plant.

FEEDING

Little routine fertilizer is needed. Excess feeding can encourage soft, sprawling stems. If growth is poor, check light and drainage first. Use soil-test guidance before adding nutrients, and follow the product label rather than trying to stimulate a wet or declining plant with strong nitrogen.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove faded flower clusters before fluffy seedheads develop. Cut back spent stems selectively to encourage fresh growth and a neater display. Clear dead material without damaging the crown. Remove volunteer seedlings promptly, and avoid leaving cut stems or seed-bearing debris where they may establish outside the garden.

HELPFUL TIPS

Red valerian can seed widely, so keep it within a maintained planting and prevent escape into natural areas. It is distinct from medicinal valerian and from garden phlox despite some similar common names. Confirm identity rather than using it as a culinary or medicinal plant. Poor winter drainage can cause crown loss.