BERRY HYPERICUM CARE

LIGHT

Berry-producing Hypericum x inodorum selections, including Magical Universe, Pumpkin, Red Fame, and Red Star, grow in sun to partial shade. Choose a bright spot with air circulation and room for a rounded shrub. Flower and fruit display depend on the cultivar and growing conditions.

WATER

Water slowly after planting to wet the whole root ball and nearby soil. Keep the roots evenly moist during establishment, checking beneath the mulch before watering again. Once established, soak during prolonged dry weather rather than watering lightly every day. Avoid soil that stays saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained garden soil and set the root ball at its original nursery level. Leave room for the cultivar's mature spread and good air movement. Apply a light mulch layer over the root zone, keeping mulch clear of the stem bases.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy feeding of a healthy plant. If growth remains weak after moisture and drainage have been checked, use a soil test to guide feeding. Apply any needed shrub fertilizer in spring at the label rate, and water it into the soil.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune in early spring before vigorous growth, removing winter-damaged branches and shortening selected shoots to encourage a fuller plant. After flowering begins, avoid clipping away the developing fruit. Deadheading is unnecessary when the ornamental berries are the main reason for growing the shrub.

HELPFUL TIPS

The berries are ornamental, not food. Their color changes as they mature, so several shades may appear at once. Check the cultivar's cold hardiness before planting in an exposed Maine garden; root mulch can help protect the planting. Remove unwanted seedlings if they appear nearby.