LILY OF THE VALLEY CARE

LIGHT

Lily of the valley (Convallaria majalis), including Rosea, prefers partial to full shade with a cool root environment. Give it a defined space for a spreading colony rather than placing it beside delicate small perennials. Avoid hot reflected sun, which can scorch leaves and shorten the attractive foliage season.

WATER

Water slowly after planting and check the root ball and nearby soil before watering again. Keep roots evenly moist during establishment without saturation. Adjust for rain, heat, and drainage rather than a fixed schedule; new plants need checking before established neighbors show stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide moisture-retentive soil enriched with organic matter. Plant container-grown crowns at nursery depth and follow the supplier's depth directions for bare-root pips. Mulch lightly without smothering emerging shoots. Rhizomes spread underground, so protect nearby plants and avoid deep cultivation through an established colony.

FEEDING

Heavy fertilizer is rarely needed in ordinary garden soil. A light organic surface dressing can help maintain soil condition without digging among rhizomes. Use a soil test before nutrient or pH changes. If feeding is necessary, apply modestly in spring rather than trying to force foliage with large nitrogen doses.

SEASONAL CARE

Leave healthy foliage after the flowers finish so plants can rebuild reserves. Remove leaves when they yellow and collapse. Thin or divide crowded colonies when necessary and control rhizomes crossing the intended boundary. Do not repeatedly cut green leaves down immediately after flowering or expect a dormant patch to remain leafy all year.

HELPFUL TIPS

Fragrant white or pale pink bells and later seasonal foliage decline are normal. Plants spread strongly and may need containment. All parts are poisonous if eaten; keep pips, leaves, berries, and cut stems away from children and pets. Reduced bloom can reflect crowding, deep shade, or recent disturbance rather than a need for heavy feeding.