For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

SMOOTH PHLOX CARE

LIGHT

Smooth phlox (Phlox glaberrima), including variegated Triple Play, grows in full sun to light shade. An open site encourages flowering and lets leaves dry readily. Check the cultivar label for mature size: Triple Play is much shorter than many typical smooth phlox selections.

WATERING

Provide regular moisture while establishing roots and water during dry spells. Smooth phlox appreciates moisture more than rock-garden moss phlox. Check the soil and water deeply at the base, allowing excess water to drain. Avoid prolonged stagnant water around the crown even though this species tolerates moist sites.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, organically enriched, well-drained garden soil. Set the root ball at its original pot depth and water thoroughly. Space for the labeled mature width. This perennial can form a colony through rhizomes; leave room for gradual spread and monitor the edges of smaller beds.

FERTILIZING

Top-dress poor soil with compost in spring. If supplemental feeding is needed, use a balanced perennial fertilizer at the labeled rate, guided by a soil test. Excessive feeding is unnecessary in fertile beds. Keep fertilizer and mulch away from the crown, and water granules in as directed.

FLOWERS & FOLIAGE

Triple Play produces pink flowers in late spring above variegated foliage that may blush pink in cool weather. Remove faded flower clusters to prolong the display and limit self-seeding. Trim untidy growth after flowering as needed while retaining healthy leaves. Named cultivars may not come true from seed.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove dead stems after they die back and tidy diseased debris. Divide crowded healthy clumps in spring if needed, keeping roots and shoots together. Watch for mites, phlox bugs, leaf spots and mildew; resistance does not mean immunity. Check drainage if stems collapse or the crown begins to rot.