



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GARDEN PHLOX CARE

LIGHT

Grow upright garden phlox and summer-flowering hybrids in full sun for the strongest bloom. Light shade is tolerated, but heavy shade encourages weak growth and reduces flowering. Allow space for the cultivar's mature width and good air circulation. Compact varieties need the same open growing conditions as tall ones.

WATERING

Keep the root zone consistently moist during active growth, especially in dry summers. Water deeply at the soil rather than wetting the foliage repeatedly. Check moisture before watering and avoid standing water. A light mulch helps keep roots cool and reduces drying; keep it away from stems.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose fertile, humus-rich soil that drains well. Set the root ball at its original soil level and water thoroughly. Space according to the variety label; mature sizes differ substantially. Crowding or poorly drained soil increases disease risk. Stake taller varieties early if they need support.

FERTILIZING

Add compost where soil is poor. Use a soil test to guide supplemental fertilizer, applying a perennial product at label rates in spring if needed. Avoid excessive nitrogen, which can encourage soft growth. Reliable moisture and suitable light matter more than heavy feeding.

FLOWERS & DIVISION

Remove faded flower clusters to encourage additional bloom and reduce self-seeding. Seedlings may differ from the named parent. Bloom timing varies between cultivars and hybrids. Divide crowded clumps in spring when growth begins; replant healthy sections promptly and water them through establishment.

SEASONAL CARE

After stems die back, cut them down and remove diseased debris to reduce carryover of mildew. Watch for white powdery growth, phlox bugs and spider mites, particularly in hot, dry weather. Resistant cultivars can still develop problems. Maintain spacing and soil-level watering, and seek identification before treating pests.