SHEEP LAUREL CARE

LIGHT

Sheep laurel (Kalmia angustifolia) suits a bright site with cool roots and dependable moisture. Allow space for its low, spreading growth rather than treating it as a small mountain laurel. Check the cultivar label for mature size and hardiness.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the original root ball regularly as roots establish. Keep the root zone moderately moist during dry weather. Sheep laurel tolerates wet conditions better than mountain laurel, but a newly planted container root ball still needs direct moisture checks.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use organic, preferably acidic soil and plant at nursery depth. Mulch lightly over the root zone while keeping stem bases uncovered. A suitable moist, naturalized planting can accommodate spreading shoots. Avoid a hot, dry bed where roots repeatedly lose moisture.

FEEDING

Use a soil test before changing pH. Apply a modest spring fertilizer suitable for acid-loving shrubs only if needed, following label rates. Heavy feeding is unnecessary. Check planting depth, soil moisture and root health before assuming pale leaves need more nutrients.

SEASONAL CARE

Little routine pruning is needed. Shape lightly after flowering and remove dead or damaged stems selectively. Avoid late-season shearing that removes future flowers. Maintain the shrub's natural habit and remove unwanted spreading shoots only where they exceed the allotted space.

HELPFUL TIPS

All parts are poisonous if eaten, and the common names sheepkill and lambkill reflect a livestock hazard. Keep it away from grazing animals. This guide covers Kalmia angustifolia and its cultivars; mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia) has its own care guide.