



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SCALY JUNIPER CARE

LIGHT

Scaly juniper (*Juniperus squamata*), including Blue Star, Blue Carpet, and Holger, grows best in good light with air circulation. Full sun is usually suitable; light shade can be tolerated. Cultivars range from compact mounds to broader spreaders, so allow the mature width rather than packing them tightly together.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed during establishment, allowing excess water to drain. A new root ball must not repeatedly dry out. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling or keeping roots constantly saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained soil with the root flare at or slightly above ground level. Keep any graft above soil. Mulch lightly without covering stems or low branches. Protect roots from compaction and digging, and allow room for the cultivar's mature spread rather than planting too tightly.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy junipers often need little feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest spring dose at the fertilizer label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen and late-season feeding; check drainage or root stress before treating browning as deficiency.

SEASONAL CARE

Little regular pruning is needed. Retain the natural mound or spreading outline and remove only damaged or badly placed growth. If reduction is necessary, make small cuts to leafy side shoots rather than shearing into bare wood. Avoid trying to turn a spreading Blue Carpet into a small, clipped ball.

HELPFUL TIPS

Blue foliage and flaky bark are normal species features. Holger can have contrasting pale new growth that later matures greener; this alone does not indicate deficiency. Keep roots well drained and investigate progressive browning for moisture stress, root trouble, or pests. Gloves help protect hands from the prickly foliage while inspecting or pruning.