BOG ROSEMARY CARE

LIGHT

Bog rosemary (Andromeda polifolia) suits a cool, sheltered position with bright light or partial shade. Avoid hot, dry reflected exposure. It is a low evergreen shrub, so check the cultivar's mature spread when placing it among larger plants.

WATER

Provide dependable moisture and check the original root ball regularly after planting. This bog-associated shrub tolerates wet conditions and should not repeatedly dry out. Keep containers under close observation during heat and wind. Do not treat it like a drought-tolerant herb.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use acidic, lime-free, humus-rich soil that retains moisture. Plant at nursery depth and mulch around the roots while keeping the stem bases uncovered. A suitable bog garden, moist border or pond margin is more appropriate than a dry gravel bed.

FEEDING

Test the soil before altering pH. Feed lightly in spring only if needed, using a product suitable for acid-loving shrubs at its labeled rate. Heavy fertilizer will not correct alkaline soil or a dry planting site. Avoid applying lime without soil-test guidance.

SEASONAL CARE

Little pruning is normally required. Remove dead or damaged growth and trim lightly after flowering only if shape needs correction. Preserve the low natural habit rather than repeatedly shearing it. Check moisture and exposure when winter damage appears before making major cuts.

HELPFUL TIPS

Despite its narrow rosemary-like leaves, bog rosemary is poisonous and must not be used as a culinary herb. It is also distinct from Pieris, often called Japanese andromeda. Confirm the botanical name and cultivar hardiness when buying or matching care information.