



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

LAMBS EARS CARE

LIGHT

Lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*), including Helen von Stein and Fuzzy Wuzzy, prefers full sun to light shade. Give the silver, woolly foliage air movement and avoid crowding it among taller plants that keep leaves damp. Light afternoon shade can help in hot sites, provided drainage remains excellent.

WATER

Water new plants at soil level when needed, letting excess moisture drain. Established clumps tolerate relatively dry conditions. Avoid wetting the woolly leaves repeatedly and do not keep the crown constantly saturated. Containers need drainage holes, and lawn sprinklers should not soak a low mat every day.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use average to lean, very well-drained soil. Plant with the crown at the soil surface and keep heavy mulch off the foliage. Wet winter soil and trapped moisture between leaves can cause decay. Leave room for stems to spread, and remove surrounding weeds without burying or tearing the crown.

FEEDING

Heavy feeding is unnecessary and can encourage soft, crowded growth. Use a soil test if poor vigor persists after drainage and exposure have been checked. If nutrients are needed, apply modestly in spring at the label rate. Compost should not be heaped over the woolly leaves or growing points.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove damaged, matted, or rotting leaves promptly to improve airflow. Remove flower stalks if a foliage-only display is preferred; some cultivars flower little. Divide overcrowded clumps when needed and discard decayed centers. Clean up winter-damaged foliage in spring without tearing out healthy new growth.

HELPFUL TIPS

Soft silver hairs are the plant's defining feature, not mildew. Brown mushy foliage usually calls for a moisture and airflow check before fertilizer. This groundcover is distinct from green-leaved Hummelo betony. Retain a light, open mat and control spread where it competes with neighboring plants.