JAPANESE KERRIA CARE

LIGHT

Japanese kerria (Kerria japonica) is useful in partial shade or bright, filtered light. Strong sun can fade the yellow flowers. Allow room for its arching green stems and spreading habit, and check the cultivar label for mature height and width.

WATER

Water deeply at planting and check the root ball regularly during establishment. Maintain moderate moisture during dry spells without keeping the ground saturated. Once established, kerria tolerates some drought. Water at soil level, especially when stems and leaves are crowded.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in loamy, well-drained garden soil. Avoid heavy, poorly drained ground. Mulch the root zone, leaving the cane bases uncovered. Provide a defined space where spreading shoots can be managed without crowding nearby perennials or paths.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy fertilization, which can encourage excessive, weedy growth. Feed modestly in spring only if growth or a soil test indicates a need. Follow label directions and inspect drainage and moisture before treating yellowing or poor growth with fertilizer.

SEASONAL CARE

Spring flowers form on the previous year's stems. Prune after flowering, removing old, weak or damaged canes near the base to retain fresh growth. Strong renewal may help an overgrown plant, but sacrifices some display. Avoid routine late-season shearing.

HELPFUL TIPS

Remove unwanted suckers to prevent the shrub spreading beyond its allotted area. Green stems add winter interest. Single- and double-flowered selections differ in appearance. Watch for canes that die back or develop lesions, and seek a diagnosis before treating persistent damage.