



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GARDEN JACOB'S LADDER CARE

LIGHT

Garden Jacob's ladder includes moisture-loving Polemonium such as Stairway to Heaven and Brise d'Anjou. Give plants morning sun or partial shade. Variegated foliage benefits from shelter during hot afternoons. Strong sun on dry soil can scorch leaves even when the plant is otherwise hardy.

WATER

Keep the root zone evenly moist, especially during the first growing season. Water thoroughly when the soil starts to dry rather than waiting for repeated wilting. Drought can cause foliage to decline or plants to go dormant. Avoid continually wet crowns and stagnant soil.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, moisture-retaining soil with good drainage. Plant the crown at the nursery level and leave room for a rounded clump. A light mulch helps reduce drying, but keep it away from the crown. Containers need drainage holes and more frequent moisture checks.

FEEDING

A modest spring feeding may help where soil is poor; use soil-test guidance rather than a heavy routine dose. Excess fertilizer will not prevent sun scorch or correct drought stress. Water dry plants before applying fertilizer and follow the product's rate for established perennials.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove spent flower stems if a tidy appearance is wanted. Trim damaged foliage without injuring the crown. Clear dead material after it dies back, and divide crowded plants in spring. Keep divisions watered while they re-root. Do not assume summer leaf loss means the roots are dead.

HELPFUL TIPS

The ladder-like leaflets and blue spring or early-summer flowers are characteristic. This guide covers garden and woodland forms that favor cool, moist roots; the compact boreale selection Heavenly Habit has a separate guide. Remove solid-green reversions from variegated cultivars if they begin to dominate.