For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

BEAUTYBUSH CARE

LIGHT

Beautybush (Kolkwitzia amabilis) grows in full sun to partial shade. Sun supports the strongest flower display, while some foliage selections appreciate filtered light. Allow room for the mature vase-shaped shrub and its long, arching branches rather than crowding it beside a walkway.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and check the original root ball regularly while roots establish. Maintain moderate moisture through dry periods. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling and persistently saturated soil. Containers and sunny, windy sites require closer checking than sheltered ground plantings.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in moist, well-drained garden soil. Space plants according to the cultivar's mature spread. Mulch the surrounding root zone to conserve moisture and suppress weeds, keeping mulch away from the stem bases. Leave room for the natural fountain-like shape.

FEEDING

Feed only if needed, using a modest spring shrub fertilizer guided by a soil test and the product label. Excess nitrogen encourages long shoots. Check light, root-zone moisture and pruning history before assuming weak flowering is caused by a lack of nutrients.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on old wood. Prune just after the spring display, removing selected oldest stems near the base and thinning crowded growth. Dormant-season renewal is possible for overgrown shrubs, but reduces the following flower display. Avoid repeatedly shearing the entire plant.

HELPFUL TIPS

Older shrubs can become open at the base as foliage gathers toward the branch tips. Selective renewal preserves a more balanced framework. This guide covers Kolkwitzia, including foliage cultivars; Callicarpa beautyberry is a different shrub with separate care needs.