



*For the joy of gardening!*

**Estabrook's**

## MOSS & SPRING PHLOX CARE

### **LIGHT**

Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) and low spring-flowering hybrids bloom best in full sun. Sprite types tolerate very light shade, and Woodlander hybrids also accept partial shade. These low mats and mounds suit sunny edges, rock gardens and slopes. Choose exposure and spacing from the cultivar label.

### **WATERING**

Water regularly while roots establish. Once established, moss phlox and many spring hybrids tolerate some drought, but prolonged dryness can still cause stress. Water at the soil and allow excess water to drain. Containers and newly planted plugs need closer attention than established garden mats.

### **SOIL & PLANTING**

Good drainage is essential, especially in winter. Sandy, gritty or rocky soil is suitable; avoid heavy, saturated sites. Plant at the original nursery depth without burying the leafy mat. Allow room for the mature spread and keep surrounding mulch from covering stems or smothering the foliage.

### **FERTILIZING**

These plants generally need only modest fertility. Avoid heavy feeding, which encourages soft leafy growth. Improve poor soil lightly before planting and use a soil test if performance is weak. If supplemental fertilizer is needed, follow the label and keep granules off the foliage.

### **FLOWERS & TRIMMING**

After the main spring display, lightly shear spent flowering growth to maintain a dense shape. Preserve the leafy mat rather than cutting all stems to bare ground. Remove dead patches carefully. Hybrid growth rates differ: Sprite and Rocky Road selections may spread more slowly than traditional moss phlox.

### **SEASONAL CARE**

Retain healthy foliage through winter and clear away smothering fallen leaves. Avoid winter puddles and repeated foot traffic. Check hot, dry plants for spider mites and inspect thinning areas for drainage or root problems. Divide healthy rooted sections when needed, replant promptly and water until established.