



ROCK PINK CARE

LIGHT

Rock pink (*Dianthus petraeus*) forms a low cushion of narrow, gray-green leaves with scented white summer flowers. Give it full sun and an open location. It suits a rock garden, gravel edge or trough where larger plants will not shade or cover the foliage.

WATER

Water new plants carefully until rooted. Once established, this species tolerates dryness, but give a thorough soak during extended drought. Let surplus water drain and avoid frequent shallow irrigation. Container plants need checking even when garden plants require little additional water.

SOIL & PLANTING

Excellent drainage is the priority. Use well-drained soil, ideally neutral to slightly alkaline, and plant at nursery depth. Keep the crown clear of heavy, moisture-holding mulch. A raised rock garden or suitable gritty container mix can help in areas with dense, wet soil.

FEEDING

Heavy feeding is unnecessary. If growth or a soil test indicates a deficiency, apply fertilizer sparingly according to the label. Do not repeatedly add rich compost over the cushion. Avoid trying to force fast growth in a plant valued for a compact, low habit.

SEASONAL CARE

No hard pruning is normally required. Remove spent flower stems gently if desired and pick out dead leaves or debris that lodge in the cushion. Keep healthy evergreen foliage through winter. In spring, trim damaged portions carefully without cutting into the living crown.

HELPFUL TIPS

Keep spreading neighbors and fallen leaves from smothering the plant. Watch for slugs, aphids, rust or mildew. Winter wet can threaten otherwise hardy plants, especially in poorly drained containers. Check the plant label for local suitability. Wear gloves if handling pinks irritates your skin and keep pets from chewing the plant.