



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

GARDEN PINKS CARE

LIGHT

Garden pinks, including Cheddar pinks, plumarius types and suitable perennial hybrids, flower best in full sun. Light shade is tolerated by some cultivars. Give low foliage mats room and keep taller neighbors from shading them. Check the label for mature spread and winter hardiness.

WATER

Water thoroughly after planting and maintain moderate moisture while roots develop. Established plants tolerate some dryness, but do not allow repeated severe wilting. Let excess water drain between waterings. Avoid soggy crowns and frequent evening overhead watering, especially in cool weather.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide loose, well-drained soil, generally neutral to slightly alkaline. Plant the crown at nursery depth rather than burying the foliage base. Keep mulch away from the crown. Use a soil test before adding lime; sharp drainage is especially important through a Maine winter.

FEEDING

Feed modestly if soil is poor, following fertilizer directions. Avoid rich, repeated feeding that encourages soft growth. Container plants may need occasional feeding during active growth. Correct drainage or light problems before assuming weak performance requires more fertilizer.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove spent flower stalks or lightly shear above the foliage after the main flush. Many modern cultivars can flower again, but timing varies. Keep healthy evergreen foliage through winter and tidy damaged leaves in spring. Renew aging, open-centered clumps when needed, rather than allowing them to become crowded.

HELPFUL TIPS

Watch for crown rot, rust, aphids and slugs. Winter survival varies by cultivar and drainage; the label is the best guide for your site. Sweet William, tall species pinks, fringed pink and rock pink have separate guides. Wear gloves if handling Dianthus irritates your skin, and do not encourage pets to chew it.