



GARDEN CONEFLOWER CARE

LIGHT

Garden coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea* and garden hybrids) bloom best in full sun. Choose a site with at least six hours of direct light and room for air to move between mature plants. Too much shade leads to fewer flowers and weaker stems.

WATERING

Water thoroughly after planting and whenever the root zone begins to dry during establishment. Established plants tolerate some drought, although prolonged dry weather can reduce flowering. Water at soil level and avoid keeping the crown constantly wet. Good drainage matters more than frequent watering.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained garden soil and set the crown at its nursery depth. Avoid heavy, saturated sites and mulch piled against the stems. Spring planting gives roots the longest establishment period. Fall plantings need particularly careful drainage; cold, wet soil can cause losses over winter.

FERTILIZING

These perennials generally need modest feeding. Use compost or a soil-test-guided application of a fertilizer labeled for perennials where needed. Follow label rates and avoid excessive nitrogen, which can encourage soft growth. Do not use fertilizer as a remedy for poor drainage or damaged roots.

FLOWERS & WINTER

Remove faded flowers to encourage additional bloom, or leave healthy seed heads for birds and winter interest. Flowering time and repeat bloom vary by cultivar. Clear diseased debris promptly; healthy stems can remain until spring. Avoid frequent digging or division, allowing plants to develop established clumps.

PESTS & PROBLEMS

Watch for slugs on young growth and leaf spots in crowded, damp plantings. Distorted flowers, abnormal green petals, yellowing and stunting may indicate aster yellows, but other problems can look similar. Seek identification before removal; confirmed aster-yellows plants should be removed because there is no cure.