YAKUSHIMA BUSH CLOVER CARE

LIGHT

Yakushima bush clover (Lespedeza bicolor Yakushima) performs best in full sun. This dwarf selection makes a fine-textured mound near the front of a border. Leave enough open space around it for sunlight to reach the lower branches.

WATER

Keep the root ball evenly moist during establishment, checking more frequently in hot or windy weather. Water slowly to wet both the root ball and the surrounding soil. Once established, it tolerates some dryness; avoid repeatedly soaking soil that is already wet.

SOIL & PLANTING

Excellent drainage is essential. Plant at the original nursery depth in ordinary garden soil, avoiding a low spot that holds water over winter. Mulch lightly around the roots, keeping the crown clear. Check the plant label for mature size and local hardiness.

FEEDING

Avoid rich feeding and repeated fertilizer applications. High fertility encourages leafy growth at the expense of flowers. If the plant grows poorly, assess drainage, light, and watering before adding nutrients. Use a soil test to resolve a suspected deficiency rather than feeding automatically.

SEASONAL CARE

Little or no routine pruning is required. If trimming is needed, wait until early spring growth begins so living shoots are easy to recognize. Remove winter-damaged stems and shorten selected shoots to preserve the natural low mound. Avoid repeated summer clipping of flowering growth.

HELPFUL TIPS

Violet-purple flowers provide late-season interest, and winter leaf loss is normal. This guide is specifically for dwarf Yakushima. Keep it separate from Gibraltar Thunberg bush clover, which has a larger arching habit and its own pruning and spacing guidance.