



*For the joy of gardening!*

**Estabrook's**

## GARDEN ASTER CARE

### **LIGHT**

New England, New York and suitable compact garden asters flower best in full sun. Light shade is tolerated, but dense shade reduces flowering and can weaken stems. Follow the cultivar label: tall meadow types and compact fall-pot selections need different spacing and positions.

### **WATER**

Water deeply after planting and keep the root zone moderately moist during establishment and bud development. Give established plants a thorough soak during dry spells. Avoid repeated wilting or constantly saturated roots. Flowering containers dry quickly and need regular moisture checks.

### **SOIL & PLANTING**

Plant at nursery depth in fertile, moisture-retentive but well-drained soil. Keep the crown clear of heavy mulch. Allow space for air to move through the clump. Check cultivar hardiness before overwintering decorative pots, since exposed container roots receive less protection than roots in the ground.

### **FEEDING**

Feed modestly in spring if the soil is poor, following fertilizer directions. A light compost application may suffice in an established border. Avoid excess nitrogen, which encourages soft growth. Improve light, watering or drainage before trying to solve weak flowering with more feed.

### **SEASONAL CARE**

Tall plants may be pinched in late spring for bushier growth or supported early. Avoid cutting back once flower buds are developing. Leave selected seed heads for wildlife, then tidy dead growth in spring. Divide crowded clumps when growth or flowering declines.

### **HELPFUL TIPS**

Flowers support late-season pollinators. Watch for mildew, leaf spots, aphids and mites; good airflow helps keep foliage healthy. Remove diseased debris. Woodland, dry-site, heath and swamp asters have separate guides. Do not assume an unnamed aster or mixed pot belongs to this care group.