For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

PERIWINKLE CARE

LIGHT

Periwinkle (Vinca minor), including Dart's Blue, Bowles Variety, and Alba, grows in sun to shade, often performing well in partial shade. Choose an area where its low evergreen mat can be contained. Avoid allowing it to creep into nearby woodland or mixed plantings where it could smother small species.

WATER

Water slowly after planting and check the root ball and nearby soil before watering again. Keep roots evenly moist during establishment without saturation. Adjust for rain, heat, and drainage rather than a fixed schedule; new plants need checking before established neighbors show stress.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use well-drained garden soil and plant at nursery depth with the crown at the surface. Mulch lightly without covering growing points. Weed gently and allow room for mature spread. Avoid soil compaction or burying the crown under compost.

FEEDING

Periwinkle usually needs little fertilizer once established. Use a soil test if pale growth persists after moisture and root conditions have been checked. Apply only modest spring feeding if needed, following the label. Excess nitrogen can encourage unwanted spread rather than improving flowering or the density of a struggling patch.

SEASONAL CARE

Trim or thin wayward stems after the spring flower display as needed. Remove diseased or dead shoots and keep boundaries clear. Rooted runners can spread beyond the original bed, so inspect adjacent areas regularly. Do not treat it as a walkable lawn or repeatedly cut so low that bare woody stems remain.

HELPFUL TIPS

Spring blue, lavender, or white flowers and glossy leaves are normal. Periwinkle spreads readily by rooting stems and can escape cultivation; contain it and remove unwanted growth early. Evergreen leaves may show winter damage in exposed conditions. Persistent dieback needs diagnosis rather than automatic fertilizer or repeated spraying.