



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

BUTTONBUSH CARE

LIGHT

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) grows in full sun to partial sun. Flowering is weaker in deep shade. Choose a site with room for the cultivar: compact Sugar Shack selections and the full-sized species have different mature dimensions.

WATER

Provide consistently moist to wet soil. Water deeply when planting and check the root ball regularly during establishment, particularly if the surrounding ground dries between rains. This shrub is suited to appropriate wet sites, pond margins and rain gardens; hot, dry beds are poor choices.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in rich, moisture-retentive soil. Buttonbush tolerates periodic flooding and a range of soil types, but needs reliable moisture. Mulch around the root zone while keeping the stem bases clear. Leave room for its rounded, multi-stemmed growth.

FEEDING

Heavy feeding is usually unnecessary. If needed, apply a modest general shrub fertilizer in early spring according to soil-test results and the product label. Fertilizer cannot make up for a dry planting site. Check soil moisture first when leaves wilt or growth stalls.

SEASONAL CARE

Little pruning is needed. Remove dead wood and shape in early spring before active growth, following cultivar guidance. Avoid repeated summer shearing that removes flowering growth. Allow the shrub to develop a natural framework rather than forcing a large plant into a small space.

HELPFUL TIPS

Round summer flowers attract many pollinators, and seed heads add later interest. Plant parts should not be eaten; this is an ornamental wildlife shrub. Check cultivar hardiness and mature size when selecting a position, especially for an exposed Maine garden.