For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

SWEETSHRUB CARE

LIGHT

Sweetshrub (Calycanthus) grows in sun to partial shade. Some afternoon shelter helps in hot exposures; deep shade produces looser growth. Check cultivar hardiness and mature dimensions, because species selections and hybrids such as Aphrodite can become substantial shrubs.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the original root ball regularly through establishment. Maintain reliable, moderate moisture during dry weather. Avoid both prolonged drought and stagnant water. Large leaves can shelter the soil from overhead irrigation, so check the root zone directly.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in rich, moisture-retentive but well-drained soil. Allow room for a broad framework and suckering shoots. Mulch around the roots without burying stem bases. Avoid a dry, sandy site unless moisture can be maintained consistently.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide feeding. If needed, apply a modest spring shrub fertilizer at the labeled rate. Extra fertilizer will not correct dry roots or an unsuitable planting site. Avoid excessive late-season feeding that encourages tender growth.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune lightly after the main flower display to shape and remove selected old stems. Preserve a balanced framework. Aphrodite and some selections can flower on new growth as well; repeated shearing still removes developing buds and can interrupt later flowering. Follow cultivar guidance.

HELPFUL TIPS

Remove unwanted suckers unless a spreading colony is desired. Flower fragrance varies by cultivar, weather and individual plant. Despite the name Carolina allspice, this is an ornamental shrub: do not use its seeds or other parts as kitchen spice.