For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

# MYRTLE TOPIARY CARE

## LIGHT

Myrtle topiary (Myrtus communis) needs a very bright window with some direct sunlight. An unobstructed south-, west- or east-facing window is suitable. Rotate the pot periodically for even growth. Introduce stronger light gradually, especially when moving a plant outdoors for summer.

## WATERING

Check the mix frequently, watering thoroughly when the surface feels dry to the touch. Do not allow the root ball to become completely dry; small, closely rooted topiaries can dry quickly. Let water drain through the pot and empty the saucer. Water less frequently in lower winter light.

## SOIL

Use a fertile, moisture-retentive but well-drained container mix. Choose a stable pot with drainage holes. Repot when roots crowd the container, moving up one modest size. Keep the trunk at its original planting depth and avoid leaving the inner pot standing in a water-filled decorative cover.

## TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY

Give a bright position away from hot radiators, drying vents and abrupt temperature changes. Keep container-grown topiaries protected from freezing during Maine winters. Humid air helps indoors; use a humidifier in dry rooms, or a humidity tray with the pot standing above the water level.

## FERTILIZING

Feed only while the plant is producing new leaves or flowers. Use a complete container-plant fertilizer at its labeled rate and frequency, generally every 2-4 weeks during active growth. Reduce or stop feeding during winter rest. Apply fertilizer to moist soil, never to a bone-dry root ball.

## PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Maintain the existing outline by trimming new shoots lightly with clean, sharp scissors. When growth extends about an inch, remove roughly half that extension to encourage density. Pruning before flowering reduces the summer bloom display; wait until flowers fade if blossoms are a priority. Inspect dense foliage regularly for pests.