



NEW JERSEY TEA CARE

LIGHT

New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) grows in full sun to partial shade. An open, well-lit site supports its rounded habit and summer flowers. Allow the labeled mature spread and choose a permanent location rather than planning to move an established plant.

WATER

Water thoroughly at planting and check the root ball regularly through establishment. Once deep roots develop, New Jersey tea tolerates drought. Water during extended dry spells without keeping the crown constantly wet. Young plants cannot yet rely on the deep root system of an established shrub.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in well-drained sandy loam or rocky soil. Avoid persistently soggy ground, which increases root-rot risk. Mulch lightly around the roots while leaving stem bases uncovered. Its deep roots make established plants difficult to transplant.

FEEDING

Heavy feeding is generally unnecessary. Use a soil test before applying fertilizer and follow modest label rates if a deficiency is confirmed. Fertilizer cannot compensate for wet roots or insufficient light. Avoid forcing soft, rapid growth with repeated nitrogen applications.

SEASONAL CARE

Little routine shaping is needed. In spring, identify and remove confirmed dead or damaged stems while retaining a balanced framework. Avoid repeatedly shearing the plant during its growing and flowering season. Let its naturally rounded form develop where space permits.

HELPFUL TIPS

Small white flower clusters attract pollinators, and the plant supports butterfly larvae. Watch for leaf spots, mildew or dying stems, especially where drainage is poor. This guide covers the deciduous eastern native *Ceanothus americanus*; evergreen western *Ceanothus* species need different care.