BARREN STRAWBERRY CARE

LIGHT

Barren strawberry (Waldsteinia ternata) grows in sun or partial shade. A position with morning sunshine and some afternoon shelter is useful where the soil dries quickly. This low groundcover works along paths, under open shrubs, and between spring-flowering bulbs.

WATER

Water at soil level after planting and check beneath the foliage before watering again. Keep new roots from drying out completely. Once established, plants tolerate some dry weather, but prolonged drought may thin the mat. Avoid leaving the planting area continually saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose well-drained garden soil and plant at the same depth as the nursery pot. Loosen circling roots gently. Space plants for their mature spread rather than crowding them together for instant coverage. Keep mulch clear of the growing crowns and remove weeds while plants establish.

FEEDING

Routine heavy feeding is unnecessary. If growth is weak, first check moisture, root health, and competition from nearby trees. Use a soil test to decide whether nutrients are needed. Keep granular fertilizer off the leaves and follow the product's directions if applying it.

SEASONAL CARE

Tidy winter-damaged leaves in spring without cutting into the crowns. Divide established patches in spring or early fall when conditions allow roots to recover. Edge back runners where they move into neighboring plants. Yellow flowers appear in late spring to early summer.

HELPFUL TIPS

This guide is for W. ternata, an ornamental groundcover with strawberry-like foliage. It does not produce a crop of edible strawberries. Foliage may persist in mild weather but can look worn after a Maine winter; healthy roots may still produce fresh spring growth.