HARDY ABELIA CARE

LIGHT

Hardy abelia (Abelia mosanensis), including Sweet Emotion and Sweet Emotion Blaze, grows in full sun to part sun. More sun encourages a stronger flower display. Choose a spot where the fragrant spring blossoms can be enjoyed near a sitting area.

WATER

Keep the root ball and nearby soil moist during establishment. Water slowly at the base, then check the soil before the next soaking. Established plants handle brief dry periods, but extended dryness during flowering can reduce the display.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in average, well-drained soil at the same depth as the nursery container. Leave space for the variety's mature spread rather than relying on annual clipping. Mulch the root area lightly, leaving a gap around the base of the stems.

FEEDING

Little special feeding is needed. If desired, use a granular shrub fertilizer once in early spring, following the product label. Avoid applying extra fertilizer to a drought-stressed plant; correct the watering problem first and reassess its growth.

SEASONAL CARE

These abelias flower on old wood. Prune only if needed, immediately after the spring flowers fade. Remove dead or damaged branches and shorten selected shoots rather than shearing the entire shrub. Winter or late-season trimming removes buds for the next spring.

HELPFUL TIPS

This is a deciduous shrub: autumn color followed by leaf drop is normal. Sweet Emotion Blaze has especially colorful fall foliage. Keep its care separate from glossy abelia and Edward Goucher, whose flowers are carried on new growth.