



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

RUSSIAN SAGE CARE

LIGHT

Russian sage (*Perovskia*, now *Salvia yangii*) needs full sun for the strongest stems and best flowering. Choose an open, airy position rather than a shaded, rich border. Cultivars such as Little Spire, Denim and Lace, and Blue Jean Baby differ in size, so leave space for their mature outline.

WATER

Water newly planted roots deeply when needed, allowing the soil to drain and dry somewhat between waterings. Established Russian sage tolerates drought and usually needs little supplemental water outside extended dry spells. Avoid frequent lawn sprinkling and constantly wet crowns, especially in cool autumn and winter weather.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use lean to moderately fertile, freely draining soil. Avoid low pockets and heavy soil that remains waterlogged through winter. Plant with the crown at the nursery level and keep heavy mulch away from woody stems. Where drainage is poor, improve the whole planting site rather than filling an isolated hole with rich compost.

FEEDING

Russian sage generally needs little fertilizer. Test the soil if growth is unusually poor, and avoid heavy nitrogen or rich manure. Excess feeding can encourage soft, floppy growth. Good sunlight and drainage matter more than routine fertilizing, and increasing fertilizer will not correct root decline caused by wet soil.

SEASONAL CARE

Leave the woody stems standing through winter, then cut back in spring as new growth becomes visible. Remove winter-killed stems and shorten the remaining framework to healthy growth near the base. Avoid repeated late-season cutting that stimulates tender shoots. Support is seldom needed when the plant receives enough sun.

HELPFUL TIPS

Silvery aromatic leaves and airy blue-purple flower stems are normal. Growth may emerge later in spring than nearby perennials, so wait before declaring it dead. Flopping often points to shade, excess moisture, or overly rich soil. This is an ornamental perennial, distinct from culinary sage and moisture-loving garden salvias.