



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

CARYOPTERIS CARE

LIGHT

Caryopteris, also called bluebeard or blue mist shrub, needs full sun for sturdy growth and good late-season flowering. Choose an open position with room for the cultivar's mature spread. Too much shade can make the plant weak and reduce bloom.

WATER

Water deeply at planting and check the root ball during establishment. Established plants tolerate some drought; allow the soil to drain between waterings. Avoid consistently wet ground and frequent shallow sprinkling. Containers need closer checking in hot, windy weather.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in loose, well-drained soil. Good winter drainage is especially important. Avoid low spots or heavy soil that stays saturated around the crown. Mulch lightly without covering stem bases, and leave room for airflow through the plant.

FEEDING

Feed sparingly, if at all, unless a soil test indicates a need. Too much fertilizer promotes lanky growth. If feeding is necessary, use a modest spring application according to label directions. Extra nitrogen will not correct poor drainage or insufficient sun.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on new growth. In spring, wait until living buds or basal shoots can be identified, then remove winter-killed stems and cut back as needed for a compact framework. Avoid hard fall pruning. In colder gardens, stems may die back while roots survive.

HELPFUL TIPS

Be patient with spring emergence before deciding the plant is dead. Late summer flowers attract pollinators. Check cultivar hardiness and the planting site's winter exposure. Crown rot is a risk in poorly drained soil. Despite the common name blue spirea, Caryopteris is not Spiraea.