TRANSATLANTICA DAPHNE CARE

LIGHT

Transatlantica daphnes (Daphne x transatlantica), including Eternal Fragrance and Summer Ice, suit sun to partial shade with protection from harsh exposure. Check cultivar hardiness carefully for a Maine site. These are distinct from the Burkwood daphnes covered in a separate guide.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and check the original root ball regularly while roots establish. Keep soil moderately moist, allowing it to dry slightly between waterings without becoming parched. Excellent drainage is essential. Avoid leaving containers in saucers of water or repeatedly watering already wet ground.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in organic, very well-drained soil. Choose a permanent location, since established daphnes resent disturbance. Mulch around the roots to keep them cool while leaving stem bases clear. Do not automatically acidify the soil simply because a daphne grows near heath shrubs.

FEEDING

Feed modestly in early spring if needed, following a soil test and fertilizer label. Avoid excessive nitrogen and late feeding that encourages soft growth. Poor drainage or damaged roots cannot be corrected with extra fertilizer. Investigate a struggling plant before treating it.

SEASONAL CARE

Pruning is usually minimal. Lightly shape after a flower flush only when necessary, remembering that repeated cuts can remove later blooms at the shoot tips. Remove damaged wood carefully. Avoid routine hard pruning or applying the renewal routine used for Carol Mackie.

HELPFUL TIPS

Flowering can repeat from spring into later summer or fall. Winter leaf retention varies with climate, and cold exposure can cause damage. Check the label for cultivar dimensions and protection needs. Plant parts are poisonous if eaten; wear gloves when handling.