



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SUMMERSWEET CARE

LIGHT

Summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), also called sweet pepperbush, grows in full sun to partial shade. Choose a cool site with reliable moisture; hot, dry exposure is unsuitable. Check the label for mature size, since compact selections and larger forms need different spacing.

WATER

Water the root ball thoroughly at planting and check it regularly during establishment. Keep soil consistently moist, especially through summer dry spells. Established plants tolerate occasional wet conditions, but a newly planted shrub still needs careful watering. Dry conditions can encourage spider mites.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use organic, acidic soil with good moisture retention. Set the top of the root ball level with the surrounding ground, and water the planting area thoroughly. Spread mulch over the roots while keeping stem bases clear. Leave room for the plant to spread.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide amendments. Feed only when needed, using a modest spring application of an appropriate shrub fertilizer at the labeled rate. More fertilizer will not compensate for dry soil or an unsuitable planting site.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers form on new growth. Prune in late winter or early spring to remove dead or crossing stems and maintain shape. Avoid unnecessary heavy cutting. Allow time for spring leaf emergence before deciding a stem is dead.

HELPFUL TIPS

Fragrant summer flowers attract pollinators. Suckering stems can gradually create a colony; remove unwanted shoots if space is limited. Retain seed heads for winter interest if desired. This guide applies to *Clethra alnifolia* and its cultivars.