BIRDS FOOT VIOLET CARE

LIGHT

Bird's-foot violet (Viola pedata), including Eco Artist Palette, needs sun to light shade and an open position. Choose a rock garden, sandy border, or similar airy site. Its deeply divided leaves and spring flowers differ from the tufted garden violas; do not assume all violets want rich, constantly damp shade.

WATER

Water young plants when the root area begins to dry, allowing excess water to drain promptly. Established plants accept some dryness, but small nursery root balls still need regular checking. Avoid daily sprinkling that keeps the crown wet. Winter drainage is especially important where snowmelt or heavy rain collects.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide sharply drained sandy or gravelly soil, preferably somewhat acidic. Keep the crown at nursery level and free of heavy organic mulch. Avoid dense clay, soggy planting pockets, and rich compost piled over the plant. Weed carefully so roots are not disturbed and taller neighbors do not smother the rosette.

FEEDING

This species does not need rich soil or heavy fertilizer. Use a soil test if a persistent problem remains after light and drainage are corrected. If feeding is necessary, apply very lightly in spring at the label rate. More fertilizer will not rescue a crown that remains cold and wet.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove damaged leaves or faded flowers gently if desired. Do not shear the small rosette as if it were a vigorous bedding viola. Allow seed to develop if natural reseeding is wanted. Keep the crown clear through winter and wait for spring growth before removing a plant that appears dormant.

HELPFUL TIPS

Deeply lobed leaves resemble a bird's foot. This violet may flower again in cool autumn weather, but it is not a continuous summer bedding plant. It does not spread by the same runners as many other violets. Establishment can be demanding, so prioritize drainage and modest competition over rich feeding.