



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

SWEET WILLIAM CARE

LIGHT

Sweet William and related barbatus hybrids grow best in sun, with some light shade tolerated. Their upright stems carry clusters of colorful flowers. Give plants room for air movement and follow the series label for height, spread and hardiness; compact and cut-flower types differ.

WATER

Keep new plants evenly moist while roots establish, watering the soil thoroughly rather than sprinkling the leaves. Once established, water during dry periods. Do not let the crown remain wet. Containers need drainage holes and should be checked more often than garden beds.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use fertile, well-drained garden soil and plant at nursery depth. Keep the growing point clear of heavy mulch. Avoid low sites that stay wet in winter. Space plants according to mature width so flower clusters and foliage can dry after rain.

FEEDING

Use a modest feeding if the soil is poor, following the fertilizer label. Too much nitrogen can produce weak stems and leafy growth. Container-grown plants may need occasional feeding while growing. Do not fertilize heavily to force recovery from cold damage or root rot.

SEASONAL CARE

Remove faded flower clusters to prolong a tidy display. Leave some seed heads if self-sowing is wanted, then thin seedlings where crowded. Retain healthy foliage until it declines and remove diseased debris. Tall flowering stems may need support in exposed positions.

HELPFUL TIPS

Expect a variable life span: Sweet William is often biennial or short-lived, and modern series may be grown seasonally. Some bloom their first year; others need a cold period. Dynasty hybrids are listed by their breeder for perennial performance in zones 6a to 9b, so do not assume reliable survival at colder Maine sites. Seedlings may differ from named parents.