



HOLLYHOCK

LIGHT

Plant *Alcea rosea* in full sun with good air movement. A sheltered border or fence line suits tall varieties. Give shorter cultivars their own space rather than crowding them beneath taller plants.

WATER

Water at soil level when the root zone begins to dry. Keep young plants evenly moist while establishing. Avoid repeated overhead watering, which leaves foliage wet and can favor disease.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose fertile, well-drained ground. Set the crown at its original depth and follow the variety tag for spacing and mature height. Damp, crowded foliage and waterlogged winter soil are poor conditions.

FEEDING

A modest spring addition of compost usually supports garden plants. Use additional fertilizer only if growth or a soil test indicates a need. Excess nitrogen encourages soft growth rather than sturdy flower spikes.

SEASONAL CARE

Stake tall stems early in windy sites. Remove faded spikes to reduce seeding, or retain a few for replacement plants. Many hollyhocks are biennial or short-lived; flowering in the first year depends on variety and plant maturity.

HELPFUL TIPS

Watch for rusty orange spots beneath leaves. Remove affected leaves and diseased debris, keep good spacing, and avoid wetting foliage. Seedlings may differ from named parents. Single flowers are especially accessible to pollinators; double forms share the same basic care.