



Sequim-Shiso Sister City Association  
Friendship Garden  
Flora Guide



# American Rhododendron

*Rhododendron macrophyllum*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Lightly after flowering to shape and remove spent blooms

**Sunlight:** Partial shade to dappled sunlight

**Water:** Weekly; prefers moist, well-draining acidic soil

**Fertilize:** Feed with acid-loving fertilizer in early spring

**Leaves:** Large, leathery, evergreen leaves

**Flowers:** Clusters of pink to purple blooms in late spring

## Pruning

American Rhododendrons require minimal pruning but benefit from occasional maintenance to keep them healthy and attractive. Prune just after flowering to remove spent blooms and encourage bushier growth. Avoid heavy pruning, as this can reduce the next season's blooms. Remove any dead or damaged branches to improve air circulation and overall plant health.

## Watering

American Rhododendrons thrive in consistently moist but well-drained soil. Water deeply once a week, more often in dry conditions. Be cautious not to let the soil become soggy, as this can lead to root rot. A thick layer of mulch can help retain moisture and keep roots cool.

## Leaves

The leaves of American Rhododendron are large, leathery, and evergreen, providing year-round interest. They are typically dark green with a slightly glossy surface and can droop slightly in extreme cold as a natural defense mechanism.

## Sunlight

These native shrubs prefer dappled light or partial shade, especially in hotter climates. While they can tolerate some morning sun, too much direct sunlight may scorch their leaves or cause them to wilt. An ideal spot would be one with protection from harsh afternoon rays, such as under tall trees or on the north or east side of a building.

## Fertilization

Fertilize in early spring with a slow-release fertilizer formulated for acid-loving plants, such as azaleas or camellias. Avoid fertilizing in late summer or fall, as this can stimulate new growth that may not harden off before winter. Always water thoroughly after feeding.

## Flowers

This species produces showy clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers ranging from pink to lavender, often with darker spots on the upper petals. Blooms appear in late spring and are highly attractive to pollinators like bees and hummingbirds. Their vibrant display is a highlight of the Pacific Northwest landscape.



# Bearded Iris

*Iris germanica*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove spent blooms; cut back foliage after browning

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Water deeply when dry; drought-tolerant once established

**Fertilize:** Light feeding in early spring and after blooming

**Leaves:** Sword-shaped, upright, green to blue-green

**Flowers:** Showy blooms in spring; wide range of colors and patterns

## Pruning

Bearded irises should be deadheaded after blooming to prevent seed formation and direct energy back to the rhizome. Cut the flower stalk down to the base once all flowers have faded. In late summer to early fall, trim the foliage to about 6 inches, especially if it becomes brown or diseased. This helps reduce pests and prepares the plant for winter.

## Watering

Bearded irises are drought-tolerant once established and do best in well-draining soil. Water deeply during prolonged dry periods, especially in spring when they're actively growing. Avoid overwatering and soggy soil, which can lead to rhizome rot. Water at the base of the plant to keep foliage dry.

## Leaves

The leaves are tall, upright, sword-shaped, and range from medium green to bluish-green. They add architectural interest even when the plant is not in bloom. Healthy foliage is key to feeding the rhizome for future flowering.

## Sunlight

Bearded irises prefer full sun and need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily for optimal blooming. While they can tolerate light shade, too little sun may reduce flowering and increase the risk of fungal issues.

## Fertilization

Apply a low-nitrogen fertilizer (such as 5-10-10) in early spring and again just after blooming. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can promote excessive foliage at the expense of blooms and increase rot risk. Do not fertilize in late summer or fall.

## Flowers

Bearded iris blooms are known for their ruffled petals, vibrant hues, and distinct "beards" on the lower petals (falls). Flower colors span the spectrum—purple, blue, white, yellow, pink, and even multi-colored varieties. Most bloom in mid to late spring, with some reblooming cultivars flowering again in late summer or fall.

# Chrysanthemum

*Chrysanthemum spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Pinch for fuller growth; deadhead spent blooms

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Weekly, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed every 2-4 weeks until midsummer

**Leaves:** Dark green leaves

**Flowers:** Colorful blooms late summer to fall

## Pruning

Chrysanthemums benefit from regular pruning to promote fuller growth and more blooms. Pinch back the stems when the plant reaches about 6-8 inches in height, removing the top 1-2 inches to encourage branching. This can be done several times throughout the growing season until midsummer. After the flowers fade, deadheading is important to keep the plant looking neat and encourage new growth. Once the blooming season is over, cut the plant back to 4-6 inches above the ground.

## Watering

Chrysanthemums need consistent moisture, especially during dry periods. Water deeply once a week or when the top inch of soil feels dry. Avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal diseases; instead, water at the base of the plant to keep foliage dry. The soil should be well-draining to prevent root rot.

## Leaves

Chrysanthemums have dark green, lobed, or serrated leaves, which are somewhat fragrant and add a lush texture to the plant.

## Sunlight

Chrysanthemums thrive in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. Too little sun will result in leggy growth and fewer flowers. They prefer bright, open spaces that allow them to receive ample sunlight throughout the day.

## Fertilization

Fertilize chrysanthemums every 2-4 weeks during the growing season (spring and summer) with a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10). Switch to a fertilizer high in phosphorus closer to bloom time to promote flower production. Avoid fertilizing after midsummer, as this can encourage soft growth that may not survive winter.

## Flowers

The flowers come in a wide range of colors, including yellow, white, pink, red, purple, and bronze. They can be daisy-like, button-like, or pom-pom shaped, depending on the variety. Blooms typically appear in late summer through fall, making them popular for autumn gardens.

# Common Spruce

*Picea spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune in late winter or early spring to shape or remove dead branches  
**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun, at least 6 hours daily  
**Water:** Water deeply during dry periods, especially when young  
**Fertilize:** Apply balanced fertilizer in early spring if needed  
**Leaves:** Needle-like, evergreen, sharp and stiff  
**Flowers:** Inconspicuous cones instead of flowers

## Pruning

Common spruces require minimal pruning. Prune in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. Focus on removing dead, damaged, or diseased branches. For shaping, lightly trim new growth (called candles) rather than cutting into older wood, which doesn't regenerate. Avoid heavy pruning as spruces do not respond well to hard cuts.

## Watering

While mature spruces are drought-tolerant, young trees need consistent moisture to establish deep roots. Water deeply during dry spells, ensuring the soil is moist but not soggy. Mulching can help retain soil moisture and keep roots cool.

## Leaves

Spruces have stiff, needle-like leaves that are arranged spirally around the branches. The needles are sharp to the touch and remain on the tree year-round, providing year-long greenery and structure.

## Sunlight

Spruce trees thrive in full sun and need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily for healthy growth. They prefer open spaces and will not grow as densely or symmetrically in partial shade.

## Fertilization

Spruces typically do not require frequent fertilization if planted in healthy soil. If needed, apply a slow-release, balanced fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10) in early spring. Avoid over-fertilizing, which can cause excessive, weak growth.

## Flowers

Spruce trees do not produce showy flowers. Instead, they develop small, inconspicuous male and female cones in spring. The female cones mature into familiar woody cones that hang down from branches and contain seeds.



# Coppertips

*Crocosmia × crocosmiiflora*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove spent flower stalks and trim foliage in late fall

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun, tolerates partial shade

**Water:** Weekly; more frequent in extreme heat

**Fertilize:** Feed lightly in spring with balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Sword-shaped green leaves

**Flowers:** Fiery orange-red blooms in summer

## Pruning

Coppertips benefit from light pruning after flowering. Once the blooms have faded, cut back the flower stalks to encourage the plant to focus energy on storing nutrients for next season. Allow the foliage to remain until it yellows and dies back naturally, then cut it down to the ground in late fall or early winter. Avoid cutting back green leaves, as they help fuel the plant's growth.

## Watering

Coppertips prefer consistently moist soil, especially during active growth and bloom periods. Water deeply once a week, or more often during particularly hot or dry spells. Ensure the soil is well-draining to prevent soggy roots and rot. Mulching can help retain moisture.

## Leaves

Coppertips produce long, narrow, sword-like leaves that form a fan-shaped clump. The foliage adds architectural interest and texture to the garden even when not in bloom.

## Sunlight

Coppertips thrive in full sun and bloom best with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. They can tolerate partial shade, especially in hotter climates, but too much shade may reduce flowering.

## Fertilization

Apply a balanced fertilizer (such as 10-10-10) in early spring as growth resumes. A second light feeding in early summer can boost blooming. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can lead to excessive foliage with fewer flowers.

## Flowers

Coppertips are known for their vivid, trumpet-shaped blooms in shades of orange, red, or yellow, often with a fiery gradient effect. Flowers bloom in succession along arching stems during summer, attracting hummingbirds and pollinators. They make excellent cut flowers.

# Coral Bells

*Heuchera spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove spent flower stalks and damaged leaves

**Sunlight:** Partial shade preferred; some tolerate full sun

**Water:** Weekly or when top inch of soil is dry

**Fertilize:** Once in spring with balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Colorful foliage in shades of green, purple, bronze, or variegated

**Flowers:** Tall, airy spikes with small bell-shaped flowers in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Coral bells require minimal pruning. Remove faded flower stalks after blooming to keep the plant tidy and promote more blooms. Trim away any dead or damaged leaves throughout the growing season to maintain a neat appearance. In early spring, clean up the plant by removing old foliage to make way for new growth.

## Watering

Keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry, especially during hot or dry periods. Good drainage is essential to prevent root rot. Avoid letting the crown sit in water, as this can lead to crown rot.

## Leaves

The foliage of coral bells is the star of the show, with a wide array of colors and textures. Leaves may be ruffled or smooth, and come in vibrant shades of lime green, deep burgundy, silver, peach, or variegated combinations. The leaves provide year-round interest and are semi-evergreen in mild climates.

## Sunlight

Coral bells thrive in partial shade but can tolerate full sun in cooler climates, especially varieties with darker foliage. In hotter regions, they prefer morning sun and afternoon shade to avoid leaf scorch. Too much shade can cause leggy growth and reduce flower production.

## Fertilization

Apply a slow-release, balanced fertilizer (such as 10-10-10) once in early spring to support healthy foliage and flowers. Avoid over-fertilizing, as excessive nutrients can reduce the plant's vigor and compact growth habit.

## Flowers

In late spring to early summer, coral bells produce slender, wiry stems topped with clusters of small, bell-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink, coral, or red. These airy blooms are attractive to pollinators like hummingbirds and bees, and can be left to dry for winter interest or cut back after flowering.

# Cotoneaster

*Cotoneaster spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light prune for shape; remove dead or crowded branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Water during dry spells; drought-tolerant once established

**Fertilize:** Not typically necessary; optional light feeding in spring

**Leaves:** Small, oval, glossy green leaves

**Flowers:** Tiny white or pink flowers in late spring to early summer; followed by red berries in fall

## Pruning

Cotoneaster requires minimal pruning but benefits from occasional shaping to maintain a tidy form. In late winter or early spring, remove dead, damaged, or congested branches to improve air circulation. Groundcover varieties may be trimmed lightly to control spread, while larger shrubs can be pruned for shape. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can reduce flowering and berry production.

## Watering

Once established, cotoneaster is relatively drought-tolerant and only needs watering during extended dry periods. Young plants should be watered regularly during their first growing season to help establish a deep root system. Always ensure well-draining soil to prevent root rot.

## Leaves

Cotoneaster leaves are small, simple, and oval-shaped with a glossy green surface. Some varieties are deciduous, while others are evergreen or semi-evergreen depending on the species and climate. In fall, the foliage of deciduous types often turns vibrant shades of red and orange.

## Sunlight

Cotoneaster thrives in full sun but also tolerates partial shade. For best berry production and dense foliage, plant it in a location where it receives at least 4–6 hours of direct sunlight daily.

## Fertilization

Cotoneaster typically does not need fertilizing in well-prepared soil. However, a light application of balanced fertilizer in early spring can support growth, especially in poor soil conditions. Avoid over-fertilizing, as excessive nutrients can lead to leggy growth with fewer flowers and berries.

## Flowers

Cotoneaster produces small, delicate, five-petaled flowers in shades of white or pale pink during late spring to early summer. While not showy, they attract pollinators and give way to clusters of bright red or orange berries in the fall, which persist into winter and provide visual interest as well as food for birds.



# Creeping Juniper

*Juniperus horizontalis*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light prune for shape; remove dead or crowded branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Water during dry spells; drought-tolerant once established

**Fertilize:** Not typically necessary; optional light feeding in spring

**Leaves:** Small, oval, glossy green leaves

**Flowers:** Tiny white or pink flowers in late spring to early summer; followed by red berries in fall

## Pruning

Cotoneaster requires minimal pruning but benefits from occasional shaping to maintain a tidy form. In late winter or early spring, remove dead, damaged, or congested branches to improve air circulation. Groundcover varieties may be trimmed lightly to control spread, while larger shrubs can be pruned for shape. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can reduce flowering and berry production.

## Watering

Once established, cotoneaster is relatively drought-tolerant and only needs watering during extended dry periods. Young plants should be watered regularly during their first growing season to help establish a deep root system. Always ensure well-draining soil to prevent root rot.

## Leaves

Cotoneaster leaves are small, simple, and oval-shaped with a glossy green surface. Some varieties are deciduous, while others are evergreen or semi-evergreen depending on the species and climate. In fall, the foliage of deciduous types often turns vibrant shades of red and orange.

## Sunlight

Cotoneaster thrives in full sun but also tolerates partial shade. For best berry production and dense foliage, plant it in a location where it receives at least 4–6 hours of direct sunlight daily.

## Fertilization

Cotoneaster typically does not need fertilizing in well-prepared soil. However, a light application of balanced fertilizer in early spring can support growth, especially in poor soil conditions. Avoid over-fertilizing, as excessive nutrients can lead to leggy growth with fewer flowers and berries.

## Flowers

Cotoneaster produces small, delicate, five-petaled flowers in shades of white or pale pink during late spring to early summer. While not showy, they attract pollinators and give way to clusters of bright red or orange berries in the fall, which persist into winter and provide visual interest as well as food for birds.

# Creeping Sedum

*Sedum spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim to shape or control spread

**Sunlight:** Full sun to part shade (at least 4–6 hours of sun)

**Water:** Drought-tolerant; water occasionally once established

**Fertilize:** Rarely needed; feed lightly in spring if desired

**Leaves:** Fleshy, succulent leaves in green, gold, or red tones

**Flowers:** Small star-shaped blooms in summer

## Pruning

Creeping sedum requires little pruning, but you can trim it back in early spring to maintain a tidy appearance or control its spread. If the plant becomes leggy or overgrown, simply snip back the stems to encourage bushier growth. Spent flower stalks can also be removed to keep the plant looking neat.

## Watering

This plant is drought-tolerant and thrives with minimal watering once established. Water deeply but infrequently, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings. Overwatering can lead to root rot, so well-drained soil is essential.

## Leaves

Creeping sedum has succulent leaves that store water, making it an ideal choice for dry or rocky areas. Leaf color varies by variety, ranging from bright green to gold, red, or variegated. The foliage often turns more vivid in cooler temperatures.

## Sunlight

Creeping sedum thrives in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. It prefers at least 4 to 6 hours of direct sunlight daily for best color and bloom production. Varieties with golden or red foliage will show their most vibrant hues with more sun exposure.

## Fertilization

Creeping sedum generally doesn't need fertilizing. If the plant seems sluggish, you can apply a diluted, balanced fertilizer (such as 10-10-10) in early spring. Avoid over-fertilizing, which can cause weak, leggy growth.

## Flowers

Tiny star-shaped flowers bloom in clusters atop the foliage, typically in mid to late summer. Flower colors range from yellow and white to pink, depending on the variety. These blooms are attractive to pollinators like bees and butterflies.



# Daffodil

*Narcissus spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

Prune: Remove spent blooms; allow foliage to die back naturally

Sunlight: Full sun to partial shade

Water: Moderate; keep soil moist during growth, dry in dormancy

Fertilize: Feed in early spring and after blooming

Leaves: Long, strap-like green leaves

Flowers: Trumpet-shaped blooms in spring

## Pruning

Daffodils do not require heavy pruning, but deadheading (removing spent flowers) after blooming helps redirect the plant's energy back into the bulb. Do not cut back the leaves until they have yellowed and died back naturally, as they are essential for storing nutrients for next year's blooms. Let the foliage remain for at least 6–8 weeks after flowering.

## Watering

Water daffodils moderately during their active growing period (fall through spring). Keep the soil evenly moist, especially in spring. Once the foliage starts to yellow and the plant goes dormant in late spring or early summer, reduce watering and allow the soil to dry out to prevent bulb rot.

## Leaves

Daffodils have long, narrow, strap-like green leaves that emerge in early spring. These leaves are smooth and upright and should be left in place until they naturally wither to feed the bulb.

## Sunlight

Daffodils prefer full sun, ideally 6+ hours a day, but they can tolerate partial shade, especially in warmer climates. Planting them in sunnier locations typically results in more vigorous growth and better flowering.

## Fertilization

Apply a low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer in early spring as shoots emerge and again after the flowers fade. Avoid over-fertilizing, as too much nitrogen can lead to lush leaves and fewer flowers. Bone meal or bulb-specific fertilizers work well.

## Flowers

Daffodil flowers typically have a central trumpet (corona) surrounded by six petal-like tepals, and bloom in early to mid-spring. Colors range from classic yellow to white, cream, orange, and even pink, depending on the variety. Most varieties are fragrant and symbolize renewal and spring's arrival.

# Delavey Tea Olive

*Osmanthus delavayi*



## Quick Care Guide

Prune: Lightly after flowering to maintain shape

Sunlight: Prefers full sun to partial shade

Water: Weekly, more in heat or drought

Fertilize: Once in early spring

Leaves: Glossy, dark green, evergreen leaves

Flowers: Fragrant white blooms in early spring

## Pruning

Delavey Tea Olive requires minimal pruning. Light shaping can be done after flowering to maintain a tidy, compact form. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to encourage healthy airflow and growth. Avoid heavy pruning, as this can reduce the next season's blooms.

## Watering

Water deeply about once a week, allowing the soil to slightly dry out between waterings. During prolonged dry periods or extreme heat, increase watering to keep the roots moist. Mulching helps retain soil moisture and protect the shallow root system.

## Leaves

The leaves are small, dark green, and evergreen, with a leathery texture and finely toothed edges. They form a dense, bushy appearance that provides year-round interest and makes the plant suitable for hedging.

## Sunlight

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. At least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight per day is ideal for best flowering. In hotter climates, some afternoon shade helps prevent leaf scorch and keeps the plant healthy.

## Fertilization

Fertilize once in early spring with a slow-release, balanced fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10). Avoid overfeeding, as excessive nitrogen can reduce flower production and lead to more leafy growth. A light annual feeding is typically sufficient for healthy growth.

## Flowers

Delavey Tea Olive produces small, white, highly fragrant flowers in early to mid-spring. The blossoms grow in clusters and emit a sweet, apricot-like scent that attracts pollinators. Though subtle in appearance, their fragrance can fill a garden.



# Dwarf Mugo Pine

*Pinus mugo var. pumilio*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning in late winter to shape

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun (6+ hours)

**Water:** Drought-tolerant once established; water deeply during dry spells

**Fertilize:** Rarely needed; feed in early spring if growth is slow

**Leaves:** Dense, dark green needles

**Flowers:** Inconspicuous; produces small brown cones

## Pruning

Dwarf mugo pines require minimal pruning. If shaping is desired, prune in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches. You can lightly trim new "candles" (young shoots) in early summer to control size and maintain a compact form. Avoid heavy pruning into old wood, as pines do not regenerate from bare branches.

## Watering

Dwarf mugo pine is fairly drought-tolerant once established. Water deeply but infrequently, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings. During hot or dry periods, especially in the first year after planting, provide extra water to help the plant establish strong roots. Ensure soil is well-drained to avoid root rot.

## Leaves

The plant features dense clusters of dark green, stiff needles, about 1 to 2 inches long, arranged in pairs. The needles add year-round texture and color, making the plant an attractive evergreen choice for rock gardens and borders.

## Sunlight

This conifer thrives in full sun and does best with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. It tolerates some light shade but will maintain its compact, dense form and richer color with more sunlight.

## Fertilization

Typically low-maintenance, dwarf mugo pines don't require regular feeding. If growth appears slow or needles are pale, apply a slow-release balanced fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10) in early spring. Avoid fertilizing in late summer or fall, as this can encourage tender new growth vulnerable to winter damage.

## Flowers

Mugo pines are not grown for flowers, as their reproductive structures are small and inconspicuous. They produce small yellowish male cones and tiny reddish female cones in spring. These develop into small, rounded brown seed cones that persist through winter, adding subtle seasonal interest.

# Flowering Dogwood

*Cornus florida*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning after blooming; remove dead or crossing branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers partial shade to full sun (4–6 hours of sun)

**Water:** Weekly, especially in dry conditions; prefers moist, well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Feed once in early spring with a slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Green leaves turning red or purple in fall

**Flowers:** Showy white to pink bracts in spring

## Pruning

Flowering dogwoods require minimal pruning. Prune lightly after the tree has finished blooming in late spring to maintain shape and remove any dead, diseased, or crossing branches. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can reduce next year's blooms. Always prune in dry weather to minimize the risk of disease.

## Watering

Keep the soil consistently moist, especially for young trees or during dry spells. Deep watering once a week is typically sufficient. Avoid waterlogged soil, as dogwoods are prone to root rot. A layer of mulch can help retain moisture and protect roots.

## Leaves

Leaves are oval and medium green during the growing season, turning brilliant shades of red to purplish-red in the fall. The foliage adds seasonal interest and supports native wildlife.

## Sunlight

While flowering dogwoods can tolerate full sun, they perform best in partial shade, particularly in hot or dry climates. Ideally, they should receive morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much sun exposure can stress the tree and lead to leaf scorch.

## Fertilization

Use a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring before new growth begins. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can damage the tree or reduce flower production. A soil test can help determine specific nutrient needs if the tree shows signs of stress.

## Flowers

Dogwood "flowers" are actually showy bracts—typically white, but some cultivars have pink or reddish hues. These appear in early to mid-spring before the leaves emerge, creating a dramatic floral display. The true flowers are small and clustered in the center of the bracts.



# Ginkgo Tree

*Ginkgo biloba*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning to shape or remove damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun (6+ hours/day)

**Water:** Weekly when young; drought-tolerant once established

**Fertilize:** Not usually necessary, but can feed in early spring

**Leaves:** Fan-shaped, bright green leaves turning golden yellow in fall

**Flowers:** Inconspicuous; male and female flowers on separate trees

## Pruning

Ginkgo trees require minimal pruning. Young trees can be lightly pruned in late winter or early spring to shape the canopy or remove crossed, damaged, or inward-growing branches. Mature trees rarely need pruning unless for structural purposes or to remove deadwood. Avoid heavy pruning, as ginkgos have a naturally graceful, symmetrical form.

## Watering

Young ginkgo trees should be watered weekly during their first few growing seasons to establish a strong root system. Once established, ginkgos are highly drought-tolerant and only require supplemental watering during extended dry spells. Ensure the soil is well-drained to prevent waterlogging.

## Leaves

Ginkgo trees are known for their unique fan-shaped leaves, which are bright green through spring and summer. In autumn, the foliage turns a vibrant golden yellow before falling, often all at once, creating a striking seasonal display.

## Sunlight

Ginkgo biloba thrives in full sun and performs best with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. While it can tolerate partial shade, optimal growth, color, and form are achieved in bright, open areas with plenty of sun exposure.

## Fertilization

Ginkgos typically do not need regular fertilization, especially if planted in rich, well-drained soil. However, if growth appears slow or foliage is pale, a balanced, slow-release fertilizer can be applied in early spring. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this may lead to overly vigorous but weak growth.

## Flowers

Ginkgo trees are dioecious, meaning male and female flowers grow on separate trees. The flowers are small and inconspicuous, appearing in spring. Male trees are typically preferred in landscapes to avoid the fruit of female trees, which can be messy and have a strong odor.

# Glory of the Snow

*Chionodoxa spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove spent blooms and yellowing foliage

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Moderate; water during dry spells

**Fertilize:** Light feeding in early spring

**Leaves:** Narrow, grass-like green leaves

**Flowers:** Star-shaped blooms in early spring

## Pruning

Glory of the Snow requires minimal pruning. After the flowers fade in spring, remove spent blooms to prevent self-seeding if desired. Allow the foliage to yellow and die back naturally, as this process replenishes the bulb's energy for the following year. Avoid cutting the leaves while they are still green.

## Watering

Glory of the Snow thrives in moist, well-draining soil. Water during dry spring periods, but avoid waterlogged conditions which can lead to bulb rot. Once flowering is finished and the plant begins to go dormant, it needs little to no additional watering.

## Leaves

The leaves are slender, bright to medium green, and resemble blades of grass. They emerge with the flowers and gradually die back as the plant goes dormant in late spring.

## Sunlight

These early bloomers prefer full sun but will also grow in partial shade. In sunnier spots, they produce more flowers and open earlier. Since they bloom before most trees leaf out, they are perfect for areas that are sunny in spring but become shaded in summer.

## Fertilization

A light application of a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring is typically sufficient. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can lead to excess foliage at the expense of blooms. Fertilizing is generally optional if the soil is rich in organic matter.

## Flowers

The flowers are small, star-shaped, and appear in shades of blue, violet, white, or pink, often with a lighter center. They bloom in early spring, sometimes while snow is still on the ground, and are among the first signs of the season. Their cheerful color and low-growing habit make them ideal for rock gardens, borders, and naturalized lawns.



# Hawthorn

*Crataegus spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune in late winter or early spring to shape and remove dead or crossing branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun (6+ hours), tolerates light shade

**Water:** Moderate; water deeply during dry spells

**Fertilize:** Not usually needed in fertile soil; apply balanced fertilizer in early spring if growth is poor

**Leaves:** Deep green, lobed leaves that may turn yellow to red in fall

**Flowers:** Clusters of small white or pink flowers in late spring

## Pruning

Hawthorns benefit from annual pruning to maintain shape and air circulation. Prune in late winter or early spring before new growth starts. Remove any dead, diseased, or crossing branches, and lightly thin out the canopy to reduce the risk of pests and improve air flow. Avoid heavy pruning, as hawthorns tend to grow slowly and have thorny branches that can make maintenance tricky.

## Watering

Hawthorns are moderately drought-tolerant once established but benefit from deep, occasional watering, especially during hot, dry weather. Ensure the soil drains well to prevent root rot. Mulching around the base can help retain moisture and suppress weeds.

## Leaves

The leaves of hawthorn are usually dark green, lobed, and have a toothed margin. They often turn attractive shades of yellow, orange, or red in autumn, providing seasonal interest even after flowering has ended.

## Sunlight

Hawthorns prefer full sun, thriving best with at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. While they can tolerate partial shade, too little sun may lead to reduced flowering and fruiting. A bright, open location will yield the healthiest growth and most abundant blooms.

## Fertilization

Hawthorns typically do well without regular feeding in fertile soils. However, if the plant shows signs of nutrient deficiency (such as pale leaves or poor growth), apply a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) in early spring before new growth begins. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can encourage excessive leafy growth at the expense of flowers and fruit.

## Flowers

Hawthorns produce clusters of small, five-petaled white or pink flowers in late spring, which attract bees and other pollinators. Though lovely, the blooms may have a musky scent that some people find unpleasant. These flowers are followed by small, berry-like fruits (haws) that persist into winter and are beloved by birds.

# Heavenly Bamboo

*Nandina domestica*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune in late winter or early spring to maintain shape and remove old stems

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Moderate; water regularly until established

**Fertilize:** Feed in spring with balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Lacy green foliage turns red or burgundy in fall and winter

**Flowers:** Small white flowers in late spring to early summer; followed by red berries

## Pruning

Heavenly bamboo should be pruned in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. Cut older canes to the ground to encourage fresh growth and maintain a neat, layered look. Avoid shearing the plant, as this can ruin its natural form. Selective pruning every couple of years will help control size and rejuvenate the plant. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches as needed.

## Watering

Water regularly during the first growing season to help establish a deep, extensive root system. Once established, Heavenly bamboo is moderately drought tolerant, but it performs best with consistent moisture. Water deeply when the top inch of soil feels dry. Avoid waterlogged conditions.

## Leaves

Heavenly bamboo has finely textured, compound leaves that start out reddish, turn green during summer, and transform into striking shades of red, orange, or burgundy in fall and winter. The foliage provides year-round interest and color, even in colder months.

## Sunlight

Heavenly bamboo grows best in full sun to partial shade. Full sun encourages the most vibrant foliage color, especially in fall and winter. In hotter climates, some afternoon shade may help protect the plant from scorching and preserve moisture.

## Fertilization

Apply a balanced, slow-release fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10) in early spring to support healthy growth and vibrant foliage. Over-fertilization can cause excessive green growth at the expense of seasonal color and flowers, so apply sparingly and according to package directions.

## Flowers

In late spring to early summer, Heavenly bamboo produces airy clusters of small white flowers with yellow centers. These are often followed by bright red berries that persist into winter, adding ornamental value and feeding local birds.



# Hyacinth

*Hyacinthus orientalis*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove spent flower spikes and yellowing leaves

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Moderate; keep soil moist during active growth

**Fertilize:** Feed at planting and after blooming

**Leaves:** Strap-like, glossy green leaves

**Flowers:** Fragrant, dense flower spikes in early to mid-spring

## Pruning

Hyacinths require minimal pruning. After the flowers fade, cut off the flower stalk to prevent the plant from using energy to produce seeds. Allow the foliage to die back naturally, as this helps the bulb store energy for next year's bloom. Only remove leaves once they've turned yellow and withered.

## Watering

During their active growing season (spring), keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy. Good drainage is crucial to prevent bulb rot. Once the foliage dies back in late spring or early summer, reduce watering significantly and allow the bulbs to dry out as they enter dormancy.

## Leaves

Hyacinths produce upright, strap-like leaves that are smooth and glossy green. These leaves typically appear in early spring and persist for several weeks after flowering, gradually turning yellow as the plant goes dormant.

## Sunlight

Hyacinths grow best in full sun to partial shade. Ideally, they should receive at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight each day. In warmer climates, a bit of afternoon shade can help prolong their blooms.

## Fertilization

Feed hyacinths with a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) at planting time in the fall. After they bloom in spring, apply another light dose to support bulb development for the next season. Avoid fertilizing once the foliage begins to die back.

## Flowers

Hyacinth flowers form dense, upright spikes covered in small, star-shaped blossoms. They are highly fragrant and come in a variety of colors including blue, purple, white, pink, red, and yellow. Blooming occurs in early to mid-spring, making them a favorite for spring gardens and containers.

# Japanese Andromeda

*Pieris japonica*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Lightly after flowering to shape; remove dead or crossing branches

**Sunlight:** Partial shade to full sun

**Water:** Weekly; prefers moist, acidic, well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Once yearly in early spring with acid-loving plant fertilizer

**Leaves:** Glossy evergreen foliage, reddish-bronze when young

**Flowers:** White or pink, bell-shaped clusters in early spring

## Pruning

Japanese Andromeda requires minimal pruning. After the flowers fade in spring, you can lightly prune the plant to maintain its shape and encourage bushier growth. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to improve air circulation. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can reduce flowering the following season.

## Watering

This plant prefers consistently moist, well-drained soil. Water weekly, more often during dry spells, to keep the root zone hydrated. It's especially important during the first few years while the plant is establishing. Mulching helps retain soil moisture and keeps roots cool.

## Leaves

Japanese Andromeda features glossy, leathery, evergreen leaves. New growth emerges a striking bronze or reddish color, maturing to deep green. The foliage adds year-round interest and works well in woodland or shade gardens.

## Sunlight

*Pieris japonica* thrives in partial shade but can tolerate full sun, especially in cooler climates. In hotter regions, some afternoon shade is beneficial to prevent leaf scorch. Ideal planting spots are those with dappled sunlight or morning sun with afternoon shade.

## Fertilization

Fertilize once in early spring with a fertilizer formulated for acid-loving plants, such as azalea or rhododendron food. Avoid over-fertilizing, as too much nitrogen can lead to leaf growth at the expense of flowers.

## Flowers

Delicate, bell-shaped flowers bloom in drooping clusters from late winter into early spring. Depending on the variety, blooms may be white, pink, or even red. Their elegant appearance and early bloom time make Japanese Andromeda a standout shrub in ornamental gardens.



# Japanese Flowering Cherry Tree

*Prunus serrulata*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light shaping after blooming; remove dead or crossing branches

**Sunlight:** Full sun (6+ hours daily)

**Water:** Weekly during dry spells; prefers moist, well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Early spring with balanced slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Glossy green, turning vibrant shades of orange and red in fall

**Flowers:** Soft pink or white blossoms in early to mid-spring

## Pruning

Japanese flowering cherry trees benefit from light pruning just after flowering. This helps maintain shape and encourages healthy growth. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to improve airflow and reduce the risk of disease. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can stress the tree and reduce the following year's blooms.

## Watering

While established trees are somewhat drought-tolerant, regular watering during dry periods helps maintain health and bloom quality. Water deeply once a week, ensuring the soil is moist but not soggy. Young trees need more frequent watering until they are well established.

## Leaves

The leaves are ovate with finely serrated edges, emerging bright green in spring and maturing to a rich, glossy green. In fall, they turn brilliant shades of red, orange, or bronze, adding seasonal interest.

## Sunlight

These trees thrive in full sun, needing at least 6 hours of direct sunlight each day. A sunny location promotes stronger growth and more abundant blossoms. Partial shade is tolerated but may reduce flowering.

## Fertilization

Apply a balanced slow-release fertilizer in early spring as buds begin to form. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can encourage leafy growth at the expense of blooms. Compost or organic mulch can also help retain moisture and enrich the soil.

## Flowers

Japanese cherry trees are renowned for their delicate pink or white blossoms that appear in early to mid-spring. The flowers may be single or double, depending on the cultivar, and often appear before the leaves. The blooms are short-lived but spectacular, creating a stunning seasonal display symbolic of renewal and the fleeting nature of beauty.

# Japanese Maple

*Acer palmatum*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning in late winter or early summer for shape and airflow

**Sunlight:** Partial shade preferred; protect from hot afternoon sun

**Water:** Weekly; keep soil consistently moist but not soggy

**Fertilize:** Feed in early spring with balanced slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Delicate, lobed leaves with vibrant seasonal color

**Flowers:** Small red to purple flowers in spring (often inconspicuous)

## Pruning

Japanese maples generally need minimal pruning, but selective trimming can enhance their natural shape and promote good airflow. The best time to prune is in late winter or early summer, avoiding periods of sap flow in early spring. Remove any dead, crossing, or crowded branches, and thin out dense areas to maintain the tree's elegant structure. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can stress the tree and ruin its natural form.

## Watering

Consistent moisture is key for Japanese maples, especially during dry spells or high heat. Water deeply once or twice a week, depending on soil conditions, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out slightly between waterings. Mulching around the base helps retain soil moisture and regulate temperature, but avoid piling mulch against the trunk.

## Leaves

Japanese maple leaves are finely divided and deeply lobed, creating a delicate, lace-like appearance. They come in a variety of colors depending on the cultivar—ranging from deep red to bright green—often shifting to brilliant shades of red, orange, or yellow in autumn. The foliage is one of the most admired features of the tree.

## Sunlight

Japanese maples thrive in partial shade, especially in regions with hot summers. Morning sun with afternoon shade is ideal. While some cultivars tolerate full sun in cooler climates, too much direct sun—especially in the afternoon—can cause leaf scorch, particularly on red or variegated varieties. Shelter from wind and intense heat helps preserve delicate foliage.

## Fertilization

Feed in early spring with a slow-release, balanced fertilizer (like 10-10-10) to support new growth. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers, which can encourage leggy growth and diminish fall color. A second light application in late spring can benefit younger trees, but mature maples often need minimal feeding.

## Flowers

Japanese maples produce small, reddish-purple flowers in spring, which are often subtle and easily overlooked among the foliage. While not showy, they add seasonal interest and may be followed by small, winged samaras (seeds) in late summer.



# Japanese Pachysandra

*Pachysandra terminalis*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim back in early spring; remove damaged or crowded growth

**Sunlight:** Prefers part to full shade

**Water:** Keep consistently moist, especially in dry periods

**Fertilize:** Light feeding in spring with balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Glossy, dark green, toothed leaves

**Flowers:** Small, white flower spikes in early spring

## Pruning

Japanese Pachysandra is a low-maintenance groundcover, but light pruning can help maintain its shape and health. Trim back leggy or overgrown stems in early spring before new growth appears. Thin out dense patches to improve airflow and reduce the risk of fungal issues. Remove any winter-damaged foliage to keep the plant looking tidy.

## Watering

Keep the soil consistently moist but not soggy. Pachysandra is somewhat drought-tolerant once established, but it performs best with regular watering during dry spells. Avoid allowing the soil to dry out completely, especially in the first year after planting.

## Leaves

Japanese Pachysandra has glossy, dark green leaves with a leathery texture and finely toothed edges. The foliage grows densely, creating a lush carpet-like appearance. In mild climates, it remains evergreen year-round.

## Sunlight

Pachysandra thrives in shady conditions, making it an excellent choice for areas with limited sun. It prefers partial to full shade and can suffer from leaf scorch if exposed to too much direct sunlight, especially in hot climates. Dappled light or morning sun is ideal.

## Fertilization

Feed Pachysandra lightly in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer (e.g., 10-10-10). Avoid heavy feeding, as this plant typically grows well with minimal nutrient input. Mulching around the base can help retain moisture and add nutrients over time.

## Flowers

While not typically grown for its blooms, Pachysandra produces small, white flower spikes in early spring. The flowers are not showy but add a subtle charm to the plant. They grow on short stalks above the foliage and are mildly fragrant.

# Japanese Red Cedar

*Cryptomeria japonica*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning to shape or remove dead growth

**Sunlight:** Needs 4-6 hours of full sun

**Water:** Regularly during dry periods, prefer well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Light feed in early spring

**Leaves:** Evergreen, needle-like leaves

**Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous, with cone-like structures

## Pruning

Japanese Red Cedars generally require minimal pruning. Remove dead or damaged branches in late winter or early spring. If you wish to maintain a particular shape or size, light pruning can be done to encourage a tidy form, but avoid heavy pruning, as it can harm the tree's natural shape.

## Watering

Water regularly, especially in dry conditions. While Japanese Red Cedars are relatively drought-tolerant once established, they do prefer consistent moisture during their early growth stages. Ensure the soil is well-drained to prevent waterlogging, as this can lead to root rot.

## Leaves

Japanese Red Cedars feature evergreen, needle-like leaves that are soft and dense, creating a lush, full appearance. The foliage has a bluish-green tint, which deepens with age.

## Sunlight

These trees do well in full sun to partial shade. Ideally, they should receive at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight each day. While they can tolerate some shade, the tree's growth may slow down, and its appearance may become less dense.

## Fertilization

Fertilize lightly in early spring using a balanced, slow-release fertilizer to support healthy growth. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can encourage excessive growth that may not be sustainable and could weaken the tree.

## Flowers

The flowers are small and not particularly showy, consisting of tiny, cone-like structures that appear in late spring. The tree produces small, round, brown cones that contain seeds, adding a unique texture to the foliage.



# Japanese Stewartia

*Stewartia pseudocamellia*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune to shape in late winter or early spring before new growth begins

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Regular water, but allow soil to dry out between waterings

**Fertilize:** Fertilize with a balanced fertilizer in spring

**Leaves:** Glossy, dark green leaves

**Flowers:** White, camellia-like blooms in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Japanese Stewartia benefits from light pruning to maintain its shape and remove dead or damaged wood. The best time to prune is in late winter or early spring before new growth starts. Avoid heavy pruning, as this can affect the plant's natural structure. If you want to shape it or remove any crossing branches, do so carefully to maintain the tree's graceful form.

## Watering

Japanese Stewartia prefers consistently moist but well-drained soil. Water the plant regularly, especially during dry spells, but be sure to allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings. Avoid waterlogged soil, which can lead to root rot. Mulching around the base can help retain moisture and keep the roots cool.

## Leaves

The glossy, dark green leaves of Stewartia are a standout feature. They turn a brilliant mix of red, orange, and yellow in the fall, adding seasonal interest to your garden. The leaves also provide a lovely texture, contributing to the plant's overall aesthetic appeal.

## Sunlight

Stewartia thrives in full sun to partial shade. While it will tolerate some shade, it produces the best flowers and fall color in bright, well-lit conditions. In areas with hot summers, partial shade can help protect the tree from scorching.

## Fertilization

Feed Stewartia with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring, just before the new growth begins. A 10-10-10 or similar formulation will promote healthy growth. Avoid fertilizing late in the growing season, as this may encourage late growth that won't harden off before the first frost.

## Flowers

Stewartia produces stunning, white, camellia-like flowers with orange stamens. These flowers bloom in late spring to early summer, adding a touch of elegance to the landscape. Each flower lasts just a few days, but the tree will continue to bloom over several weeks, making it a seasonal showstopper.

# Jersey Thrift

*Lychnis coronaria*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Deadhead spent flowers to prolong blooming

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Water regularly, but allow soil to dry out between waterings

**Fertilize:** Feed lightly in spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Silvery, woolly foliage

**Flowers:** Bright magenta or pink blooms, summer to fall

## Pruning

Jersey Thrift benefits from regular deadheading to encourage a longer blooming season. Once the flowers fade, remove them to promote new growth and prevent the plant from self-seeding. If the plant becomes leggy, prune it back after blooming to maintain its shape and encourage fresh foliage.

## Watering

Jersey Thrift prefers well-drained soil and is drought-tolerant once established. Water regularly during dry spells, but let the soil dry out between waterings. Overwatering can lead to root rot, so it's essential to keep the soil on the drier side.

## Leaves

The silvery, woolly leaves of Jersey Thrift add a unique texture to the garden. They are soft to the touch and create a lovely contrast against the bright flowers.

## Sunlight

This plant thrives in full sun but can tolerate partial shade, particularly in warmer climates. More sun generally leads to more robust blooms, but too much shade can result in sparse flowering.

## Fertilization

Fertilize Jersey Thrift lightly in the spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. Too much fertilizer can lead to excessive foliage growth at the expense of flowers, so it's best to feed sparingly.

## Flowers

Jersey Thrift produces bright magenta or pink flowers in loose clusters, blooming from late spring to early fall. The flowers are typically cup-shaped and attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies. This plant is often used in rock gardens or as a border plant for its vibrant color and low-maintenance nature.



# Lady's Mantle

*Alchemilla mollis*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Cut back after flowering to maintain shape

**Sunlight:** Prefers partial to full sun

**Water:** Moderate watering; keep soil consistently moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Light feeding in early spring, if needed

**Leaves:** Soft, rounded, deep green leaves with a slight frosty appearance

**Flowers:** Small, yellow-green clusters in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Lady's Mantle benefits from light pruning after it finishes flowering in late spring to early summer. Cutting back the spent flowers will help the plant maintain a tidy appearance. You can also trim back any dead or damaged stems throughout the growing season. Some gardeners also like to cut the plant back in the fall to keep the garden neat.

## Watering

Lady's Mantle prefers consistently moist soil but needs good drainage to prevent waterlogging. Water the plant regularly during dry spells, but make sure the soil doesn't stay soggy. It's a good idea to water at the base of the plant to avoid wetting the foliage.

## Leaves

The leaves of Lady's Mantle are soft, rounded, and deeply lobed, with a velvety, almost frosted texture. They catch water droplets in the morning, giving the plant a dewy, magical appearance. These leaves are a great addition to shaded or cool areas in the garden and add texture to plantings.

## Sunlight

Lady's Mantle thrives in partial to full sun. It can tolerate some shade, but it will produce fewer flowers and its growth might be less vigorous. A location with morning sun and afternoon shade works especially well.

## Fertilization

Lady's Mantle doesn't require heavy feeding. If your soil is particularly poor, you can add a light application of a balanced fertilizer in early spring, but avoid over-fertilizing as this can lead to excessive leaf growth at the expense of flowers.

## Flowers

Lady's Mantle produces small, delicate clusters of yellow-green flowers that appear in late spring to early summer. The flowers are not as showy as those of some other perennials, but they are an excellent choice for adding subtle color and texture. The plant's main attraction is its foliage, but the blooms attract beneficial pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

# Lavender

*Lavandula spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim back after blooming to maintain shape and encourage new growth  
**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun  
**Water:** Weekly, allow soil to dry out between waterings  
**Fertilize:** Feed lightly in spring with a balanced fertilizer  
**Leaves:** Silvery, narrow, and aromatic  
**Flowers:** Purple, blue, or white spikes in summer

## Pruning

Lavender benefits from light pruning to maintain a compact shape and prevent it from becoming leggy. After the blooming season, cut back spent flower stems and trim about 1/3 of the plant's growth. This will help the plant stay healthy and encourage new growth for the next season. Be careful not to cut too deeply into the woody stems, as lavender may not regrow from old wood.

## Watering

Lavender is drought-tolerant once established, but regular watering is essential during the growing season. Water deeply once a week or when the top few inches of soil feel dry. Avoid overhead watering and ensure that the soil drains well to prevent root rot. Lavender does not like to sit in soggy soil, so make sure it is planted in well-draining areas.

## Leaves

Lavender's leaves are narrow, silvery-green, and highly aromatic. When brushed, they release a distinctive, soothing fragrance that is one of the plant's signature features. The foliage is evergreen in mild climates, but may die back in colder temperatures.

## Sunlight

Lavender thrives in full sun and needs at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. It prefers bright, open spaces with plenty of light to encourage the best flowering and growth. Insufficient sunlight can result in poor flowering and a weaker plant.

## Fertilization

Lavender does not require heavy fertilization. In early spring, a light feeding with a balanced fertilizer is beneficial to kickstart growth. Avoid fertilizing heavily, as this can result in excessive foliage and fewer flowers. Over-fertilization can also make the plant more susceptible to disease.

## Flowers

Lavender flowers are typically purple, though some varieties produce blue or white blooms. The flowers grow in tall, spiky clusters that are highly fragrant. Lavender typically blooms in mid to late summer, making it a popular choice for both ornamental and culinary gardens.



# Madonna Lily

*Lilium candidum*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Cut back spent blooms; remove dead foliage

**Sunlight:** Needs full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Keep soil evenly moist, but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Fertilize in early spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Dark green, lance-shaped leaves

**Flowers:** White, trumpet-shaped flowers in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Madonna lilies require minimal pruning. After flowering, remove spent blooms to encourage tidy growth. In the fall, you can cut back any dead or damaged foliage to the ground. This will help the plant conserve energy for the next growing season. Be cautious not to remove any healthy leaves during the growing season, as they help the plant store energy for the next year.

## Watering

Madonna lilies need consistently moist soil but should not sit in waterlogged conditions. Water deeply once a week, ensuring the soil stays evenly moist throughout the growing season. Reduce watering in the fall and winter when the plant is dormant. Ensure the soil is well-draining to prevent root rot.

## Leaves

Madonna lily leaves are dark green, lance-shaped, and grow in a basal rosette. The foliage emerges in spring and is long and narrow, providing a striking contrast to the large, elegant flowers. The leaves persist through the growing season and die back after blooming.

## Sunlight

Madonna lilies thrive in full sun but can tolerate partial shade, especially in hotter climates. Ideally, they should receive 6+ hours of direct sunlight a day to encourage optimal blooming. If grown in too much shade, the plant may become leggy and produce fewer flowers.

## Fertilization

Apply a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) in early spring when new growth begins. Fertilize again after flowering to encourage strong foliage for next year's blooms. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can result in excessive leaf growth at the expense of flowering.

## Flowers

The Madonna lily produces large, trumpet-shaped white flowers with a sweet fragrance. The blooms appear in late spring to early summer and are often used in floral arrangements. The flowers have six petal-like tepals that curve back, giving them a graceful, star-shaped appearance.

# Michaelmas Daisy

*Lavandula angustifolia*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Deadhead to encourage new blooms; cut back in early spring  
**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun  
**Water:** Weekly, keep soil moist but well-drained  
**Fertilize:** Feed once a month in spring and early summer  
**Leaves:** Lance-shaped, dark green  
**Flowers:** Purple, blue, or pink daisy-like blooms in late summer to fall

## Pruning

Michaelmas daisies benefit from deadheading throughout the blooming season. Remove spent blooms to encourage new flowers and maintain a neat appearance. In early spring, cut back any dead or damaged stems to about 4-6 inches above the ground to encourage fresh growth and fuller plants. This plant can also be cut back after the first bloom if you want a second, smaller flush of flowers.

## Watering

Water weekly, keeping the soil consistently moist but well-drained. Be careful not to overwater as this can lead to root rot. During dry periods, you may need to water more frequently. Ensure good drainage to prevent the roots from becoming waterlogged.

## Leaves

The leaves are lance-shaped, dark green, and slightly toothed, providing a nice contrast to the bright blooms. The foliage grows in a dense clump and supports the tall stems.

## Sunlight

These daisies thrive in full sun and need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day for best performance. Insufficient sunlight will result in weak, leggy growth and fewer blooms.

## Fertilization

Feed Michaelmas daisies once a month with a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) during the spring and early summer growing season. This will encourage healthy growth and a robust display of flowers. Avoid fertilizing in late summer or fall as the plant prepares for dormancy.

## Flowers

Michaelmas daisies produce vibrant, daisy-like flowers in shades of purple, blue, or pink. These blossoms bloom in late summer to fall, often reaching their peak around the time of the Michaelmas holiday, hence their name. The flowers are a favorite for attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



# Moss Phlox

*Phlox subulata*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim back after blooming to encourage compact growth  
**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun  
**Water:** Weekly, keep soil moist but well-drained  
**Fertilize:** Light feeding in spring with a balanced fertilizer  
**Leaves:** Needle-like, evergreen foliage  
**Flowers:** Colorful blooms in spring

## Pruning

Moss phlox benefits from light pruning after it finishes blooming in spring. Cut back the spent flowers and trim the stems to encourage denser, more compact growth. This will also help prevent the plant from becoming leggy. If necessary, you can shear it back by about a third to maintain its shape and encourage new growth.

## Watering

Moss phlox is relatively drought-tolerant once established but benefits from consistent moisture during dry periods. Water deeply once a week or when the soil feels dry to the touch. Ensure that the soil is well-draining to prevent waterlogging, which can cause root rot.

## Leaves

Moss phlox has small, needle-like leaves that form dense, mat-like clumps. The evergreen foliage remains attractive year-round, offering texture and green coverage even when the plant isn't in bloom.

## Sunlight

Moss phlox thrives in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. Adequate sunlight encourages abundant flowering and dense growth. It prefers sunny spots but can tolerate some light afternoon shade in warmer climates.

## Fertilization

Fertilize moss phlox lightly in spring with a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10) to support growth. Avoid heavy feeding, as this plant does not require much fertilizer and can become leggy with excess nutrients.

## Flowers

Moss phlox produces vibrant, colorful flowers in a variety of hues, including pink, purple, white, and red. The flowers appear in early to mid-spring and create a carpet of blooms. These small, star-shaped flowers are particularly attractive to pollinators, such as bees and butterflies.

# Mt Fuji Cherry Blossom Tree

*Prunus serrulata* 'Mt. Fuji'



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning for shape after flowering, remove dead or damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Regular watering, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed in early spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Glossy green leaves that turn yellow in fall

**Flowers:** White, semi-double blossoms in early spring

## Pruning

The Mt. Fuji Cherry Blossom Tree requires minimal pruning. Focus on removing dead, damaged, or diseased branches in early spring or late winter before new growth begins. Light pruning after the tree has finished blooming helps maintain shape and encourages strong growth for the following season. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can reduce flowering the following year.

## Watering

Regular watering is essential, especially during the growing season. The tree prefers moist, well-drained soil. Water deeply at the base of the tree once a week or when the soil feels dry to the touch. Avoid watering overhead to prevent fungal diseases and ensure the tree's roots remain healthy.

## Leaves

The Mt. Fuji Cherry Blossom Tree features glossy, dark green leaves that provide excellent contrast to its delicate white flowers in spring. In fall, the leaves transition to a brilliant yellow, adding seasonal beauty to the landscape.

## Sunlight

This tree thrives in full sun to partial shade. For optimal flowering, it should receive at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. In regions with very hot summers, a bit of afternoon shade may be beneficial to protect the tree from heat stress.

## Fertilization

Fertilize the Mt. Fuji Cherry Blossom Tree with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring to support its growth and blooming. Avoid heavy fertilizing, as it can encourage excessive leaf growth at the expense of flowers. Additional feedings are typically not necessary once the tree is established.

## Flowers

The tree produces stunning, semi-double, white blossoms that appear in early spring. These flowers are slightly fragrant and are a hallmark of the Mt. Fuji variety. The blooms often emerge before the leaves, creating a dramatic, snow-like appearance in the landscape. Flowering typically lasts for about 1-2 weeks, with peak bloom happening in mid-spring.



# Norway Spruce

*Picea abies*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune to maintain shape; remove dead or damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Weekly, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Fertilize once a year in spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Dark green, needle-like leaves

**Flowers:** Small, cone-shaped flowers that appear in spring

## Pruning

Norway spruce trees benefit from occasional pruning to maintain a healthy, attractive shape. Remove dead, damaged, or diseased branches throughout the year to prevent disease spread. If the tree is young, you may also trim to maintain a balanced structure. Be mindful not to over-prune, as this can affect the tree's natural growth pattern.

## Watering

Norway spruces need consistent moisture, especially during dry spells. Water deeply once a week, or when the top inch of soil is dry. Make sure the soil is well-draining, as standing water can cause root rot. They do best in moist, well-drained soils but can tolerate some drought once established.

## Leaves

The Norway spruce has dark green, needle-like leaves arranged in spirals along the branches. These needles are stiff, with a pointed tip, and they can grow up to 1.5 inches long. The tree retains its needles year-round, providing an evergreen appearance.

## Sunlight

Norway spruces thrive in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. The more sun they receive, the better their growth and overall health. However, they can tolerate partial shade in areas where full sun is not available.

## Fertilization

Fertilize Norway spruce trees once a year in early spring, before new growth begins. Use a balanced, slow-release fertilizer to encourage strong growth. Avoid fertilizing in late summer or fall, as this can promote tender growth that is more vulnerable to cold damage in winter.

## Flowers

Norway spruces produce small, cone-shaped flowers (called strobili) in spring. Male cones are smaller and produce pollen, while female cones grow larger and mature into seed cones. These cones are elongated, turning brown as they ripen and fall off in the fall. The tree's cones can be up to 6 inches long and are a key characteristic of the species.

# Orange Lily

*Lilium spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

Prune: Deadhead spent blooms; cut back after the growing season

Sunlight: Needs 6+ hours of full sun

Water: Regular watering, keep soil moist but well-drained

Fertilize: Feed every 4-6 weeks during the growing season

Leaves: Narrow, lance-shaped, dark green leaves

Flowers: Vibrant orange blooms in mid-summer

## Pruning

After the blooming season, prune back the orange lily by cutting the flower stalks to the ground. This helps maintain the plant's shape and prevent disease. If you want to encourage new growth, deadhead spent flowers throughout the growing season. Be cautious not to cut back the foliage until it has turned yellow or died back naturally in the fall, as the leaves help nourish the bulb for next year's growth.

## Watering

Water the orange lily regularly, especially during dry spells, to keep the soil evenly moist. Make sure the soil is well-drained to prevent root rot. The plant prefers deep watering, so aim to water the base and avoid wetting the foliage.

## Leaves

The leaves of the orange lily are long, narrow, and lance-shaped, forming a rosette of green that provides a beautiful backdrop to the bold flowers. They help the plant store energy to fuel its next blooming cycle.

## Sunlight

Orange lilies thrive in full sun and need at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day to grow strong and produce vibrant blooms. They do best in bright, sunny locations that are free from excessive shade.

## Fertilization

Fertilize orange lilies every 4-6 weeks with a balanced fertilizer during the growing season (spring and early summer). Once the blooms have finished, avoid fertilizing to prevent stimulating soft, non-hardy growth that could struggle in the cooler months.

## Flowers

Orange lilies produce striking, trumpet-shaped blooms in shades of vibrant orange, often with darker spots or streaks. They bloom in mid to late summer, making them perfect for adding a burst of color to gardens during the warmer months. The flowers are often fragrant and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.



# Redclaws

*Escallonia rubra*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune after flowering to shape; remove dead or damaged stems

**Sunlight:** Needs 4-6 hours of full sun

**Water:** Weekly, prefers well-drained soil, but can tolerate some dryness once established

**Fertilize:** Feed in spring with a balanced fertilizer, optional feeding mid-season

**Leaves:** Glossy, dark green, oval-shaped leaves

**Flowers:** Vibrant red to pink tubular flowers, blooming in summer to early fall

## Pruning

Prune redclaws after the blooming season to maintain its shape and remove any spent or damaged stems. Light pruning can also be done to control size and encourage new growth. Avoid heavy pruning in late fall or winter, as this may hinder the plant's ability to withstand colder temperatures.

## Sunlight

Redclaws thrive in full sun, but it can also tolerate partial shade, especially in warmer climates. Ideally, the plant should receive 4-6 hours of sunlight per day. More sun leads to more flowers and denser growth.

## Watering

Water regularly, especially in dry spells, but ensure the soil is well-drained. Once established, redclaws are somewhat drought-tolerant. It's best to avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal diseases, instead focusing on watering at the base of the plant.

## Fertilization

Fertilize redclaws in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer to promote healthy growth and flowering. A light feeding in mid-season can help sustain its bloom. Avoid fertilizing too late in the growing season, as it can lead to tender growth that may not survive the winter.

## Leaves

The plant has glossy, dark green, oval-shaped leaves that provide a lush backdrop to the vibrant flowers. The leaves are evergreen in mild climates but may drop in colder winters.

## Flowers

Redclaws are known for their striking red to pink tubular flowers, which appear in summer to early fall. These flowers are highly attractive to pollinators like bees and hummingbirds. They cluster in dense spikes, adding a colorful touch to the garden throughout the blooming period.

# Rhododendron

*Rhododendron spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune after flowering to maintain shape and size

**Sunlight:** Prefers partial to full sun, with some varieties tolerating shade

**Water:** Water regularly, keeping the soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring

**Leaves:** Evergreen, leathery leaves that are dark green

**Flowers:** Vibrant blooms in spring, colors range from pink, purple, red, and white

## Pruning

Rhododendrons benefit from light pruning after blooming to shape the plant and remove any dead or damaged growth. The best time to prune is just after the flowers fade, as this will help ensure healthy growth and abundant blooms the following year. When cutting back, always prune just above the growth node to encourage new branches. Avoid pruning too late in the season, as this could cut off next year's buds.

## Watering

Rhododendrons prefer consistently moist soil, but it must be well-draining to prevent root rot. Water regularly, especially during dry periods, but ensure the soil doesn't become waterlogged. Mulching around the base of the plant helps retain moisture and keeps the roots cool.

## Leaves

Rhododendron leaves are leathery, dark green, and often glossy. They are evergreen in most varieties, maintaining their foliage throughout the winter. In colder regions, some varieties may lose leaves, but many retain their appearance year-round.

## Sunlight

Rhododendrons prefer partial to full sun, though some varieties tolerate more shade, especially in hotter climates. Too much direct sunlight can scorch the leaves, so a spot with dappled sunlight or morning sun and afternoon shade is ideal. In very warm climates, they will do better in partial shade.

## Fertilization

Fertilize Rhododendrons with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring before new growth starts. Use a fertilizer specifically designed for acid-loving plants. Avoid fertilizing late in the growing season, as it can promote tender new growth that may be damaged by frost.

## Flowers

Rhododendron flowers are large, showy, and come in a wide range of colors including pink, red, purple, white, and even yellow. The flowers typically bloom in spring, and depending on the variety, they can be trumpet-shaped or bell-like, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies.



# Rosemary

*Rosmarinus officinalis*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim regularly to maintain shape and encourage new growth

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Weekly, allow soil to dry between waterings

**Fertilize:** Feed once a month during growing season

**Leaves:** Aromatic, needle-like, and evergreen

**Flowers:** Small, lavender-blue flowers in spring and summer

## Pruning

Rosemary benefits from regular pruning to maintain a compact, bushy shape. Trim the plant back in early spring to encourage new growth, and remove any dead or damaged stems. Light pruning can be done throughout the year to control its size. Avoid cutting into the woody stems as this may hinder regrowth. Regular trimming also helps stimulate more aromatic growth.

## Watering

Water rosemary when the soil is dry to the touch, but avoid overwatering. It is drought-tolerant once established, and its roots prefer to dry out between waterings. Be sure the soil is well-draining to prevent root rot. Rosemary does not like "wet feet" and should not sit in soggy soil.

## Leaves

Rosemary leaves are needle-like, evergreen, and highly aromatic. They are a deep green on top with a lighter green, almost silvery underside. The leaves have a strong fragrance that is characteristic of the herb and is often used in cooking for flavoring meats, potatoes, and breads.

## Sunlight

Rosemary thrives in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight each day. It prefers bright, open spaces and can tolerate some heat, making it ideal for sunny garden spots or even containers placed outdoors.

## Fertilization

Fertilize rosemary once a month during the growing season with a balanced fertilizer. Too much fertilizer can result in lush, but weak growth. For an extra boost, you can use a fertilizer low in nitrogen to promote healthy, aromatic foliage.

## Flowers

Rosemary produces small, pale lavender-blue flowers, typically in the spring and early summer. These flowers are not only attractive but also attract pollinators like bees, which benefit the garden. The blooms are small but abundant, creating a subtle, lovely display on the plant.

# Satsuki Azalea

*Rhododendron indicum*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim after blooming to maintain shape; remove dead or damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers partial to full sun

**Water:** Regular watering, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Dark green, leathery leaves

**Flowers:** Bright, colorful blooms in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Satsuki azaleas benefit from light pruning to maintain their compact shape. Trim the branches after the plant has finished blooming, usually in late spring or early summer. Remove any dead, damaged, or crossing branches to improve air circulation and shape. Be cautious not to prune too late in the season, as this can affect next year's blooms.

## Watering

Satsuki azaleas need consistent moisture. Water the plant deeply to keep the soil moist, but well-drained, especially during dry periods. Avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal diseases; instead, water at the base of the plant. Make sure the soil has good drainage, as azaleas do not tolerate wet feet, which can lead to root rot.

## Leaves

Satsuki azaleas have dark green, leathery leaves that are typically lance-shaped. These leaves provide an attractive backdrop for the vibrant blooms and remain lush throughout the growing season. Their evergreen nature means they retain their foliage in winter.

## Sunlight

Satsuki azaleas prefer bright, but indirect light. While they can tolerate some full sun, too much direct sunlight can scorch the leaves. They thrive in areas that receive partial sun, especially during the hotter parts of the day. A little shade can help protect the plant from heat stress, particularly in warmer climates.

## Fertilization

Feed Satsuki azaleas in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer specifically formulated for acid-loving plants. Avoid fertilizing during the bloom period, as this can encourage excess leaf growth rather than flowers. After blooming, you can feed again in the fall if necessary, but be cautious with the amount of fertilizer to avoid overstimulating the plant.

## Flowers

The flowers of Satsuki azaleas are stunning, appearing in late spring to early summer. They come in a variety of colors, including shades of pink, red, white, and purple. The blooms are usually funnel-shaped and can range from single to double petals, depending on the variety. These azaleas are known for their vibrant, showy flowers that make them a favorite for garden displays.



# Siberian Iris

*Iris sibirica*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove dead or damaged foliage in early spring

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Keep soil consistently moist, but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed lightly in early spring

**Leaves:** Long, slender, arching green leaves

**Flowers:** Elegant blooms in shades of purple, blue, white, and yellow, typically in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Siberian irises benefit from light pruning to remove any dead or damaged foliage. In early spring, trim back any old or browning leaves to make way for fresh growth. After the flowering season, cut back spent flower stems to the base of the plant to keep the garden tidy and promote new growth. Avoid cutting back the entire plant in the fall, as leaving some foliage can provide winter interest and protection for the roots.

## Watering

These irises prefer consistently moist soil, especially during their growing season. Water deeply once a week, or whenever the soil feels dry to the touch. They are relatively tolerant of wet soil, but good drainage is essential to prevent root rot.

## Leaves

The long, slender leaves of the Siberian iris are a vibrant green, arching outward from the plant's base. The leaves can grow up to 24-30 inches in length and provide a graceful backdrop to the plant's blooms.

## Sunlight

Siberian irises thrive in full sun but can tolerate partial shade, especially in hotter climates. They typically bloom best with at least 4-6 hours of direct sunlight a day, though they can tolerate some dappled shade. Too much shade may result in fewer blooms.

## Fertilization

Siberian irises are not heavy feeders, but they benefit from a light application of balanced fertilizer in early spring when growth begins. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can lead to excess foliage growth and fewer flowers. Fertilizing again after the blooming period is typically unnecessary.

## Flowers

The flowers of the Siberian iris are known for their elegant, intricate appearance. They bloom in a range of colors, including shades of purple, blue, white, and yellow, often with a delicate pattern on the petals. Flowers appear in late spring to early summer and are typically arranged in clusters on tall stems. These irises are often admired for their striking, yet delicate appearance in the garden.

# Silver Ragwort

*Senecio cineraria*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim back dead foliage; cut back in late spring for fresh growth

**Sunlight:** Needs full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Water regularly, but allow soil to dry out between waterings

**Fertilize:** Feed monthly with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Silvery, fuzzy, deeply lobed leaves

**Flowers:** Small, yellow blooms in late spring to summer

## Pruning

Silver ragwort benefits from light pruning throughout the growing season. In late spring, cut back any damaged or old stems to promote fresh growth. After blooming, trim back dead or faded flowers to maintain the plant's neat appearance. You can also lightly trim the plant to shape it, but avoid cutting too much in the winter months to protect the plant.

## Watering

Silver ragwort prefers soil that is slightly dry between waterings. Water it regularly but ensure the soil is well-drained, as it does not tolerate standing water. In very hot weather, the plant may need more frequent watering, but always check that the top layer of soil has dried before watering again.

## Leaves

The leaves of Silver ragwort are silvery-gray with a soft, velvety texture. They are deeply lobed and create a striking contrast in the garden, especially when paired with brighter blooms or foliage.

## Sunlight

Silver ragwort thrives in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. For the best growth, provide at least 6 hours of sunlight daily. In areas with hot summers, some afternoon shade can help prevent the plant from becoming stressed.

## Fertilization

Fertilize Silver ragwort monthly during the growing season with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can lead to excessive leaf growth with fewer flowers. Stop fertilizing in late fall, as the plant enters dormancy.

## Flowers

Silver ragwort produces small clusters of bright yellow, daisy-like flowers in late spring to summer. These cheerful blooms are an attractive addition to any garden and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.



# Sweet Iris

*Iris pallida*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim back old leaves after flowering; remove dead or damaged foliage

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Water regularly, but ensure the soil is well-drained

**Fertilize:** Fertilize in early spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Long, sword-like, green or blue-green leaves

**Flowers:** Fragrant flowers in shades of purple, blue, or white in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

After sweet iris blooms, cut back the flower stalks to the base. Once the foliage begins to die back in late fall or early spring, trim the leaves to about 3-4 inches above the ground. Removing old and damaged foliage helps prevent disease and keeps the plant looking tidy. Be cautious not to damage the rhizomes when pruning.

## Watering

Water sweet irises regularly, ensuring the soil is moist but not waterlogged. While they are drought-tolerant once established, they perform best with regular watering during dry spells. Make sure the soil is well-drained to prevent the rhizomes from rotting, as they do not like sitting in wet soil.

## Leaves

The leaves of sweet iris are long, sword-like, and can vary from green to a bluish-green hue. They are usually upright and form a dense clump that adds vertical interest to the garden. The foliage often remains attractive even when the plant isn't in bloom.

## Sunlight

Sweet irises need full sun to thrive, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight each day. Too little sun will lead to weaker growth and fewer flowers. Plant them in well-lit areas to ensure they get the sun they need for healthy blooms and strong stems.

## Fertilization

Apply a balanced fertilizer in early spring as new growth begins. Avoid fertilizing too frequently, as excess nutrients can result in weak, floppy growth. Fertilizing once a year in the spring should suffice for healthy growth and abundant blooms.

## Flowers

Sweet iris produces fragrant flowers, typically in shades of purple, blue, or white, with distinct petals that are often ruffled or frilled. These blooms appear in late spring to early summer and are often a beautiful contrast to the foliage. The flowers are a favorite of bees and butterflies, making them a great addition to pollinator gardens.

# Sweetgum Tree

*Liquidambar styraciflua*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune in late winter or early spring to remove dead or damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Moderate watering, prefers moist, well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Fertilize in early spring with a slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Star-shaped, glossy green leaves with a bright fall color change

**Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous clusters in the spring

## Pruning

Sweetgum trees benefit from pruning to remove dead or damaged branches and to maintain their shape. The best time to prune is during late winter or early spring, before new growth begins. Be cautious when removing branches, as the tree's sap can be sticky. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can lead to a weak structure and increase susceptibility to diseases.

## Watering

Sweetgum trees prefer consistently moist, well-drained soil. Water regularly during dry periods, particularly during the summer months, but ensure the soil does not become waterlogged. They are moderately drought-tolerant once established, but they perform best when given consistent moisture.

## Leaves

The Sweetgum tree's leaves are star-shaped with five lobes, glossy green in the summer. They are known for their vibrant color change in the fall, turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange, red, and purple. The leaves provide excellent seasonal interest, making this tree a popular choice for autumn displays.

## Sunlight

Sweetgum trees thrive in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. However, to ensure the best growth and vibrant fall colors, plant them in a location where they can receive at least 6-8 hours of sunlight each day. In areas with harsh winters, partial shade can help protect the tree from extreme cold.

## Fertilization

Fertilize the Sweetgum tree in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer to support healthy growth. Apply a general-purpose fertilizer with an NPK ratio of 10-10-10, but avoid fertilizing in late summer or fall, as this can encourage late growth that is more susceptible to winter damage.

## Flowers

The flowers of the Sweetgum tree are small and inconspicuous, appearing as greenish-yellow clusters in the spring. These are followed by spiky seed pods, which mature in the fall. While not particularly showy, the flowers contribute to the tree's overall aesthetic and help attract pollinators.



# Tulip

*Tulipa spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Remove faded flowers to prevent seed formation

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Weekly, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed every 4-6 weeks during the growing season

**Leaves:** Long, lance-shaped, green leaves

**Flowers:** Vibrant, bell-shaped blooms in spring

## Pruning

Tulips benefit from removing spent blooms after flowering to prevent seed production. This process, known as deadheading, encourages the plant to focus energy on storing nutrients in the bulb for the next season. While the foliage is still green, avoid cutting it back until it has died naturally, as the leaves help the bulb store energy.

## Watering

Tulips need consistent moisture, particularly during their growing season in the spring. Water them weekly or when the top inch of soil is dry. Ensure the soil is well-draining to avoid waterlogging, which can cause the bulbs to rot. Water at the base of the plant to keep the leaves dry and reduce the risk of fungal diseases.

## Leaves

Tulip leaves are long, lance-shaped, and green, providing a lush backdrop to the bright flowers. These leaves remain green until they die back in the summer after the blooming season. Do not cut back the foliage until it has naturally yellowed.

## Sunlight

Tulips thrive in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. Planting in a sunny location ensures that they produce strong, vibrant blooms. Tulips may not bloom as well in partial or full shade.

## Fertilization

Feed tulips every 4-6 weeks during the growing season with a balanced fertilizer (10-10-10). Avoid fertilizing after blooming, as tulips do not require additional nutrients once they have finished flowering. Over-fertilizing may result in weak growth and fewer flowers.

## Flowers

Tulip flowers are bell-shaped and come in an array of vibrant colors, including red, yellow, pink, purple, and white. Blooms appear in early to mid-spring, making tulips a favorite in spring gardens. The variety of flower shapes ranges from simple, single blooms to more intricate, frilled varieties.

# Tulip Poplar

*Liriodendron tulipifera*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune in late winter or early spring before new growth begins

**Sunlight:** Needs 6+ hours of full sun

**Water:** Regular watering; keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed with balanced fertilizer in early spring

**Leaves:** Green, lobed leaves with a distinctive shape

**Flowers:** Yellow-green, tulip-like flowers in late spring to early summer

## Pruning

Tulip poplars are best pruned in late winter or early spring before the new growth begins. Remove any dead or damaged wood and shape the tree to maintain a desirable form. It's important to avoid heavy pruning, as this can lead to excessive sap flow and stress the tree. Focus on cutting back any water sprouts or crossing branches to improve air circulation and sunlight penetration.

## Watering

Tulip poplars prefer consistently moist soil, especially in the first few years of growth. Water deeply during dry spells, ensuring that the soil remains moist but not soggy. Avoid overwatering, as the roots can suffer in poorly drained soil. Once established, the tree is somewhat drought-tolerant but will perform better with regular watering.

## Leaves

The leaves of the tulip poplar are distinctive, with a lobed, mitten-like shape. They are a rich green color during the growing season, turning a bright yellow in fall. The leaves provide a lush canopy that creates shade in the summer months.

## Sunlight

Tulip poplars thrive in full sun and require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily to grow healthy and strong.

Without enough sunlight, the tree may grow weak and leggy, resulting in fewer flowers and slower growth. Plant in a bright, open area where it can receive ample sunlight throughout the day.

## Fertilization

Fertilize tulip poplars with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer in early spring before new growth begins. A general-purpose 10-10-10 fertilizer works well. Avoid fertilizing late in the season, as this can encourage late growth that may not harden off before the first frost.

## Flowers

Tulip poplar flowers are large and tulip-shaped, with yellow-green petals and an orange center. They bloom in late spring to early summer and are highly attractive to pollinators, including bees. The flowers appear in clusters at the tips of branches, giving the tree an elegant, soft appearance.



# Viburnum

*Viburnum spp.*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Trim to shape and remove dead or damaged wood after flowering

**Sunlight:** Full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Regular watering, keep soil moist but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed in early spring with a balanced fertilizer

**Leaves:** Dark green, often turning vibrant in fall

**Flowers:** Clusters of white, pink, or cream flowers in spring

## Pruning

Viburnums should be pruned after flowering to maintain shape and size. Remove any dead, damaged, or diseased wood as needed. Cutting back old stems promotes new growth. Avoid heavy pruning in late fall or winter, as it may damage the plant. You can also trim to shape to maintain a tidy appearance.

## Watering

Water Viburnum plants regularly, especially during dry spells, but ensure that the soil is well-drained to avoid root rot. Keep the soil moist but not soggy, and water at the base of the plant to prevent wetting the foliage. Viburnums are fairly drought-tolerant once established.

## Leaves

Viburnum has dark green, oval leaves that may be glossy or matte, depending on the species. In the fall, many varieties turn striking shades of red, purple, or orange, adding seasonal color to the landscape.

## Sunlight

Viburnum plants grow best in full sun to partial shade. While they can tolerate some shade, they flower best in bright, sunny spots. A bit of afternoon shade is acceptable, especially in warmer climates.

## Fertilization

Fertilize Viburnums in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. This supports healthy growth and flowering throughout the growing season. Avoid fertilizing too late in the year, as this can lead to weak growth that may not survive winter.

## Flowers

Viburnum produces beautiful clusters of white, pink, or cream-colored flowers in late spring to early summer. The blooms are fragrant, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies. Some varieties also produce colorful berries after flowering, which can be red, blue, or black, depending on the type.

# Western Red Cedar

*Thuja plicata*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Light pruning to maintain shape; remove dead or damaged branches

**Sunlight:** Prefers full sun to partial shade

**Water:** Regular watering; needs moist, well-drained soil

**Fertilize:** Apply a slow-release fertilizer in spring

**Leaves:** Evergreen, scale-like, soft, and aromatic

**Flowers:** Small, inconspicuous cones in spring

## Pruning

Western red cedar generally requires minimal pruning. Light pruning to maintain shape can be done in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. Remove any dead or damaged branches to keep the tree healthy and neat. Avoid heavy pruning, as this can cause stress to the tree and affect its overall appearance.

## Watering

These trees prefer moist, well-drained soil but can tolerate some drought once established. Water regularly, especially during dry spells, to maintain soil moisture around the root zone. The soil should never be allowed to dry out completely, but avoid waterlogged conditions, as this can lead to root rot.

## Leaves

The foliage of the Western red cedar is soft and scale-like, with a rich, aromatic scent. The evergreen leaves are a blue-green color and remain on the tree year-round, providing year-round beauty and shelter.

## Sunlight

Western red cedar thrives in full sun to partial shade, though it does best with access to plenty of sunlight. It can tolerate some shade but will grow more slowly in these conditions. In areas with intense heat, partial shade is recommended to prevent the tree from drying out.

## Fertilization

Western red cedars benefit from a slow-release fertilizer in early spring, which provides nutrients throughout the growing season. A balanced, all-purpose fertilizer is usually sufficient. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can lead to weak growth and vulnerability to pests and diseases.

## Flowers

The flowers of the Western red cedar are small, inconspicuous cones that appear in spring. Male cones are tiny and release pollen, while female cones develop into small, woody structures that mature in late summer to fall. These cones can be an attractive feature when viewed closely.



# White Japanese Wisteria

*Wisteria floribunda 'Alba'*



## Quick Care Guide

**Prune:** Prune back hard in late winter or early spring, remove spent flowers

**Sunlight:** Requires full sun for best bloom

**Water:** Keep soil moist, but well-drained

**Fertilize:** Feed once a year in early spring with a slow-release fertilizer

**Leaves:** Dark green, pinnate leaves

**Flowers:** Fragrant white blooms in spring

## Pruning

White Japanese wisteria benefits from regular pruning to maintain its shape and encourage vigorous blooming.

Prune back hard in late winter or early spring, removing any dead or damaged growth. After flowering, remove spent blooms to improve the plant's appearance.

Regularly prune to control its growth, especially if it's growing along a structure or trellis. Annual pruning helps prevent it from becoming too invasive.

## Watering

Water regularly, especially during dry periods, to keep the soil evenly moist. Wisteria likes well-drained soil, so avoid soggy conditions that can lead to root rot. Water at the base of the plant to prevent excess moisture on the foliage, which can encourage disease.

## Leaves

The leaves of Wisteria 'Alba' are dark green and pinnate, providing an elegant backdrop to its cascading blooms. The foliage is dense and glossy, offering shade and a decorative look throughout the growing season.

## Sunlight

Wisteria 'Alba' thrives in full sun, requiring at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day to produce abundant flowers. Without enough sun, it may not bloom as profusely. It performs best in bright, sunny locations that can accommodate its vigorous growth.

## Fertilization

Fertilize wisteria once a year in early spring with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. Avoid over-fertilizing, as this can promote excess foliage growth at the expense of blooms. If the plant shows signs of poor growth or weak flowering, a light application of fertilizer can help boost its health.

## Flowers

Wisteria 'Alba' produces stunning, fragrant white flowers that hang in long clusters. These blooms appear in mid to late spring, often in May or June, and can create a spectacular display. The flowers are highly fragrant, attracting pollinators like bees and butterflies. As the flowers fade, they may give way to seed pods, which can be removed to maintain a tidy appearance.

# Wisteria

*Wisteria floribunda 'Royal Purple'*



## Quick Care Guide

- Prune: Prune after flowering to shape the plant and remove deadwood. Cut back long shoots.
- Sunlight: Needs full sun for optimal blooming
- Water: Water regularly but ensure the soil is well-drained
- Fertilize: Apply fertilizer in early spring before new growth begins
- Leaves: Pinnate leaves, dark green
- Flowers: Cascading clusters of fragrant, white flowers in late spring

## Pruning

Wisteria 'Royal Purple' requires regular pruning to maintain its shape and encourage strong blooms. After the plant finishes flowering, cut back the long stems to about 3-4 buds to keep it from becoming too leggy. You can prune again in late summer to remove any unwanted growth and maintain its structure. Wisteria responds well to hard pruning, so don't be afraid to trim it back to encourage vigorous growth.

## Watering

Wisteria prefers consistent moisture but well-drained soil. Water regularly, especially during dry spells, but avoid letting the roots sit in waterlogged soil. Ensure that the plant has good drainage to prevent root rot. Watering at the base of the plant is recommended to keep foliage dry and reduce the risk of disease.

## Leaves

The plant's dark green, pinnate leaves provide an elegant backdrop to the stunning flowers. The leaves are compound, with leaflets arranged in a graceful, alternating pattern, adding texture and interest even when the plant isn't in bloom.

## Sunlight

This wisteria thrives in full sun, ideally receiving 6+ hours of direct sunlight per day. Wisteria plants that do not receive enough sunlight may not bloom well, so choose a sunny location where it can spread and grow freely.

## Fertilization

Fertilize your wisteria in early spring, just before the new growth begins, using a balanced fertilizer. You can also apply a fertilizer high in phosphorus to encourage better blooming. Avoid excessive fertilization, as too much nitrogen can result in lush foliage at the expense of flowers.

## Flowers

'Royal Purple' wisteria produces long, drooping clusters of fragrant, white flowers with a subtle lavender tint. The flowers bloom in late spring and early summer, and they create a stunning display that cascades down from the vine. This variety is known for its vigorous growth and spectacular flowering clusters.