

Limelight Hydrangea

Sun and Location

Morning Sun: Give them 4 to 6 hours of direct sun early in the day.

Afternoon Shade: Protect them from harsh afternoon light, which burns leaves and dries out blooms.

Watering and Soil

Moisture: Keep the soil evenly moist. Water deeply 1 to 2 times a week during dry spells. Water early in the morning so the leaves can dry.

Drainage: Plant in rich, well-draining soil. Soggy dirt causes root rot.

Mulch: Add a 3-inch layer of shredded pine bark or compost around the base to keep roots cool and lock in moisture.

Pruning and Feeding

Pruning: Prune in late winter or early spring (January to March) before new growth starts. Cut back no more than one-third of the plant's total size, as Limelights bloom on new wood.

Fertilizer: Apply a slow-release granular fertilizer formulated for trees and shrubs in early spring. Avoid fertilizing late in the summer.

African Iris

Sunlight and Soil

Sunlight: Give the plant 4 to 6 hours of direct sun daily. Full sun makes the flowers grow best.

Soil: Use loose, well-draining soil. It handles poor soil or sand easily, but rots if it sits in soggy mud.

Spacing: Space individual plants about 12 to 36 inches apart to let the roots spread.

Watering and Feeding

Water: Water deeply once a week during dry spells. Once established, it handles short dry periods well.

Fertilizer: Feed with a balanced, all-purpose plant food once a month during March, June, and August.

Pruning and Winter Care

Pruning: Do not cut healthy green leaves all the way down. Snip off dead brown leaves and old flower stalks in the spring.

Cold Protection: Leaves may turn brown if the temperature drops below 25°F, but established roots usually bounce back in spring.

Blue Agapanthus

Light and Soil

Sun: Give the plant at least six hours of direct sun daily for the best blue blooms. Partial shade is helpful during hot Texas afternoons.

Soil: Plant in rich, loamy, or sandy soil that drains well. Amend heavy Texas clay with organic compost to prevent root rot.

Water and Fertilizer

Water: Keep soil moist for the first year. Once roots are set, they tolerate brief dry spells, but they need deep watering when the top inch of soil dries out.

Feed: Apply a slow-release, low-nitrogen, bloom-boosting fertilizer in early spring. Too much nitrogen makes lots of leaves but stops flowers from growing.

Maintenance and Winter Care

Pruning: Cut old flower stalks down to the base after flowers fade. Clear away dead leaves in late winter.

Winter: Add a layer of mulch over the roots to protect them from sudden hard freezes.

Pringles Dwarf Japanese Yew

Sunlight and Placement

Light: Plant in full sun to partial shade. In hotter parts of Texas, protect the shrub from scorching afternoon sun to prevent leaf browning.

Usage: Ideal for low hedges, borders, container planting, or foundation accents.

Soil and Watering

Soil: Requires loose, well-draining soil that is slightly acidic to neutral. It does not tolerate sitting in soggy, poorly draining sites.

Watering: Water deeply and regularly during the first growing season to establish a strong root system. Once established, it is moderately drought-tolerant but needs consistent moisture during intense Texas summer dry spells.

Maintenance and Care

Pruning: Shape or trim at any time of the year to maintain your preferred size or formal hedge look. Remove any dead or broken branches as needed.

Fertilizing: Feed with a balanced, slow-release fertilizer once in the spring.

Pests and Hardiness: Naturally resistant to most insects, diseases, and deer.

White Drift Roses

Sunlight and Planting

Location: Pick a spot with full sun.

Spacing: Space plants 2 to 3 feet apart to allow good air flow.

Soil: Use loose, well-draining soil. Mix in compost if your Texas soil has heavy clay.

Watering

Frequency: Water deeply when first planted. Once roots grow in, they handle dry spells well.

Method: Water the soil directly in the morning. Keep water off the leaves to stop fungal diseases.

Maintenance and Care

Pruning: Cut back to 6 to 8 inches tall in early spring before new leaves grow.

Fertilizing: Feed with a slow-release rose fertilizer in early spring after the first round of blooms. Stop feeding by late summer.

Clean-up: No need to cut off old dead flowers; they bloom back every 5 to 6 weeks on their own. Rake up fallen leaves underneath to stop pests.

Bougainvillea

Sunlight and Placement

Full sun: Give your plant 6 to 8 hours of direct daily sunlight. Less sun means lots of green leaves and no bright color.

Wind protection: Keep the plant safe from strong winds that can break tender new shoots.

Watering and Soil

Deep soaking: Water the soil thoroughly only when the top layer feels dry. Avoid frequent light sips, which cause weak roots.

Drainage: Use loose, well-draining soil or a pot with open drainage holes. Bougainvillea hates sitting in soggy water.

Feeding and Pruning

Fertilizer: Feed with a balanced plant food monthly from February through September. Stop feeding in October so the plant does not grow weak winter shoots.

Pruning: Cut back old or overgrown stems in late winter or early February before new spring growth begins. Wear thick gloves to avoid sharp thorns.

Winter Care

Frost protection: Bougainvilleas do not like freezing weather. In pots, move them into a garage or indoors before a freeze. In-ground plants in colder zones may die back and regrow from the roots if heavily mulched.

Echinacea (Cone Flower)

Sunlight and Planting Location

Sunlight: Aim for 6 to 8 hours of sun daily; partial or bright afternoon shade helps protect plants from scorching during peak Texas summers.

Spacing: Space individual plants 18 to 24 inches apart to ensure good air flow.

Soil and Watering

Soil: Prefers loose, well-draining soil. If planting in heavy Texas clay, mix in expanded shale or compost to improve drainage.

Watering: Water deeply when first establishing. Once mature, they are drought-tolerant, but appreciate weekly irrigation during severe dry spells. Let the top 2 inches of soil dry out between waterings.

Maintenance and Pruning

Fertilizing: Skip heavy fertilizers. A light layer of compost added around the base in the spring is plenty.

Deadheading: Clip off dead flower heads in mid-summer to promote a longer bloom cycle. Stop cutting them back by late fall so the dried seed cones can feed local birds.

Winter Care: Cut back dead winter stalks down near the ground in late winter or early spring before new green shoots emerge.

Coreopsis (Tick Seed)

Sunlight and Planting

Full sun: Plant where they get at least 6 hours of direct sun daily for the most flowers.

Timing: Put them in the ground during spring after the last frost or in early fall.

Spacing: Space plants 12 to 24 inches apart to let air flow and prevent rot.

Good drainage: They hate wet, heavy clay feet; amend tight soils with compost or plant in sandy raised beds.

Watering: Water young plants regularly, but let mature plants dry out between waterings. They tolerate heavy Texas droughts well.

No heavy food: Skip synthetic fertilizers; too much food causes tall, floppy stems with very few blooms.

Pruning and Maintenance

Deadheading: Pinch off dead, faded flower heads weekly to keep new colors popping all season.

Summer haircut: Shear the plant back by a third or half if it looks messy or sprawls out in mid-summer heat.

Division: Split large root clumps every 2 to 3 years in early spring to keep them strong.