



HYBRID FLOWERING DOGWOOD CARE

LIGHT

Hybrid flowering dogwoods, including Stellar and Jersey Star selections, grow in sun to partial shade. Choose an airy site with protection from intense reflected heat. These hybrids vary considerably in size and cold tolerance, so check the specific cultivar before planting; a shared dogwood name does not imply identical hardiness.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots evenly moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, weather, and drainage rather than watering daily by the calendar. Avoid repeatedly drying a new root ball or leaving it saturated.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained, organically rich soil. Locate the root flare before planting and keep it at or slightly above ground level, with any graft above soil. Mulch lightly over the roots without touching the trunk. Protect the shallow root area from digging, compaction, lawn equipment, and added soil.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy plants may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest spring dose of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen, late-season feeding, and adding lime automatically to acid-loving dogwoods.

SEASONAL CARE

Preserve the natural branching framework and prune sparingly. Remove dead, damaged, rubbing, or misplaced growth with small selective cuts. If light shaping is needed, work after flowering. Avoid topping, shearing, or the hard renewal pruning used for colorful-stem dogwood shrubs. Remove shoots from below a graft before they become established.

HELPFUL TIPS

This group includes Aurora, Celestial, Celestial Shadow, Constellation, Hyperion, Stellar Nova, Stellar Pink, Venus, Starlight, and Rosy Teacups. Their parentage and flowering times vary. Some are sterile or produce little fruit. Disease tolerance is cultivar-specific, not immunity. Variegated foliage may appreciate extra afternoon shade; do not treat normal coloring as deficiency.