



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

COLORFUL TWIG DOGWOOD CARE

LIGHT

Colorful-stem dogwood shrubs in *Cornus alba*, *C. sericea* or *stolonifera*, and *C. sanguinea* grow in sun to partial shade. Good light usually improves winter stem color. Protect pale or variegated foliage from severe scorch on hot sites. Allow room for the cultivar's mature width and spreading habit.

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 moisture-retentive soil with good drainage. Red-osier dogwoods tolerate wetter ground, but do not assume every species or cultivar requires standing water. Plant with the root flare visible and mulch lightly away from stems. Keep newly planted root balls moist and control weeds without repeatedly damaging shallow roots.

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

For strong winter color on established vigorous plants, remove some oldest stems at the base in early spring to encourage young shoots. Hard renewal sacrifices flowers and fruit and is not required annually. Let new plants establish first. Slow-growing Pucker Up rarely needs pruning; retain its textured foliage and natural shape.

HELPFUL TIPS

Red, yellow, orange, or multicolored stems are cultivar features. Ivory Halo and Sgt. Pepper have variegated foliage; Neon Burst has bright foliage. Suckers or stems touching soil can spread, so manage boundaries where needed. These shrubs use different pruning from flowering dogwood trees, which should never receive routine hard stem renewal.