



DOUBLEFILE VIBURNUM CARE

LIGHT

Doublefile viburnums are lacecap forms of *Viburnum plicatum*, often labeled var. *tomentosum*. Grow in sun to partial shade. Give the horizontal branches space to spread, and choose a site protected from harsh winter exposure. The layered shape is an important part of the display.

WATER

Keep roots evenly moist during establishment and through extended summer drought. Doublefile viburnum can wilt or scorch in a hot, dry position. Soak the root ball and surrounding soil when needed, then allow drainage. Do not confuse drought damage with a need for more fertilizer.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moist, well-drained soil. Keep the root flare near the surface and mulch over the roots while leaving the stem bases clear. Shasta and Watanabe-type selections differ in size and flowering habit. Do not crowd the broad branches against a path, foundation, or narrow property boundary.

FEEDING

Base feeding on a soil test and the shrub's vigor. Heavy nitrogen can produce leafy growth without improving flowering or fruit set. Check moisture, drainage, and root competition before increasing fertilizer. Keep any recommended fertilizer off the trunk and follow the product's labeled rate.

SEASONAL CARE

Prune sparingly after the main spring flowering period. Remove damaged or awkward branches selectively and preserve the tiers. Avoid clipping the top and sides into a ball. Heavy pruning removes flowers and potential fruit; repeated shearing also destroys the horizontal branching that makes the shrub distinctive.

HELPFUL TIPS

The flat flower clusters have large outer florets around smaller fertile flowers. A compatible, genetically different plant flowering at the same time may improve fruit set. Japanese snowball types such as Newport have a separate guide and should not be expected to behave like fertile lacecap forms. Remove volunteer seedlings outside the intended planting.