SAGELEAF WILLOW CARE

LIGHT

Sageleaf willow (Salix candida), including Iceberg Alley, grows best in full sun in a cool, moisture-retentive site. Allow room for its rounded shrub habit and keep foliage airy. Although its silver leaves resemble some dry-garden plants, it is a moisture-loving willow and should not be treated like lavender.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots consistently moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, weather, and soil conditions rather than a fixed daily schedule. A new root ball can dry out even beside damp ground.

SOIL & PLANTING

Provide moist soil with good moisture retention; sageleaf willow also tolerates wet conditions. Plant at the nursery depth with the root flare visible and mulch lightly away from stems. Avoid hot, dry gravel pockets and compacted soil. Protect the root area and check newly planted root balls during dry spells.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy willows may need little feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest spring dose of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen and late-season feeding; fertilizer cannot correct poor siting or damaged roots.

SEASONAL CARE

Retain the natural rounded framework and remove damaged or crossing stems selectively. If size management is necessary, prune after the spring catkin display. Established vigorous plants tolerate renewal, but routine hard cutting is unnecessary for every shrub. Let new plants establish before making major reductions.

HELPFUL TIPS

Soft silver foliage is an intended feature. Iceberg Alley is valued for compact growth and cold tolerance, but still needs establishment watering. Leaf loss in autumn is normal. Check moisture, drainage, and stems if the shrub declines, and do not try to restore silver color with heavy fertilizer.