



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

WEeping PUSSy WILLOW CARE

LIGHT

Weeping pussy willow (*Salix caprea Pendula*) forms a small umbrella-like canopy, often grafted onto an upright trunk. Grow in sun to light shade with dependable moisture. Leave room for hanging branches and air circulation; choose a site where the canopy can develop without constant clipping against paths or walls.

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

Plant with the root flare at or slightly above the surrounding ground level. Keep any graft union above soil. Mulch lightly across the root zone without touching stems. Protect roots from compaction, lawn equipment, and repeated digging. Leave room for the plant's mature spread rather than relying on repeated hard cutting.

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

After the catkin display, remove dead, rubbing, or badly placed branches and shorten overly long weeping shoots as needed. Retain the grafted head and upright supporting trunk. Remove shoots from roots or below the graft promptly. Never cut the trunk to the ground as if renewing an own-root pussy-willow shrub.

HELPFUL TIPS

The trunk height largely reflects the original graft, while the crown continues to spread and hang lower. Upright shoots below the head may be vigorous rootstock rather than the weeping cultivar. Check ties so they do not girdle the trunk. These outdoor trees need winter dormancy and are unsuitable for permanent indoor display.