



NINEBARK CARE

LIGHT

Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*) grows in full sun to partial shade. In Maine, a sunny site generally supports good flowering. Give each cultivar its labeled mature width rather than planning to shear a large selection into a small space.

WATER

Water deeply at planting, then check the original root ball regularly while roots establish. Established shrubs tolerate some dry weather, but prolonged drought still warrants watering. Water at soil level and let excess moisture drain away; avoid frequent, shallow sprinkling.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in well-drained soil. Ninebark adapts to a broad range of soil conditions. Use a wide planting hole and keep mulch away from the base of the stems. Provide air circulation rather than crowding the shrub against a wall.

FEEDING

Routine heavy feeding is unnecessary. If growth or a soil test indicates a need, apply a modest spring shrub fertilizer according to the label. Avoid excessive nitrogen, which encourages soft growth. Check moisture and drainage before treating weak growth with fertilizer.

SEASONAL CARE

Flowers develop on older wood. Shape immediately after flowering, removing selected old stems near the base to preserve the natural outline. Dormant-season rejuvenation is possible for overgrown plants, but sacrifices the next flower display. Do not cut every plant hard each year.

HELPFUL TIPS

Peeling bark is a normal ornamental feature. Watch for powdery mildew and dying shoots; improve spacing and seek a diagnosis for persistent problems. Cultivars vary greatly in size and leaf color. This guide covers eastern ninebark and its selections.