JAPANESE SNOWBALL VIBURNUM CARE

LIGHT

Japanese snowball forms of Viburnum plicatum, including Newport, grow in sun to partial shade. Choose a protected position with room for the cultivar's natural outline. Snowball flower heads and lacecap doublefile flowers belong to different forms, even when nursery labels use overlapping common names.

WATER

Water the original root ball and nearby soil deeply when they begin to dry. New shrubs need regular checks during the first seasons, even when established plants tolerate some drought. Continue checking during dry autumn weather. Avoid frequent shallow sprinkling and prolonged waterlogging.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant in moist, well-drained soil at the nursery root-flare level. Mulch lightly over the root area without piling material against stems. Allow for the cultivar's eventual width. A compact selection still grows over time and should not be crowded into a space requiring constant shearing.

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

Shape only when necessary, shortly after the main spring flowering display. Remove damaged branches and thin selectively, preserving the plant's framework. Avoid routine late-season trimming or hard shearing into a geometric shape. Give newly planted roots careful attention before trying to force faster growth with pruning or feeding.

HELPFUL TIPS

Newport is sold as a compact doublefile viburnum but has snowball-like clusters. Snowball forms have sterile flowers and should not be chosen for a reliable berry display. Lack of fruit is not corrected by planting a pollinizer or adding fertilizer. Keep these separate from the fertile lacecap forms and from European snowball viburnum.