LEMONY LACE RED ELDERBERRY CARE

LIGHT

Lemony Lace red elderberry (Sambucus racemosa) grows in sun to partial shade. In hotter situations, afternoon shade helps protect the finely cut, bright foliage. Give its airy, arching branches room to develop rather than planting it where constant shearing would be needed.

WATER

Water deeply after planting and keep the root ball evenly moist while roots establish. Check the surrounding soil as well as the original nursery root ball. Once established, reduce watering frequency, but provide a slow soaking during prolonged dry weather rather than frequent shallow sprinkling.

SOIL & PLANTING

Choose moist, well-drained garden soil. Plant at its original nursery depth and spread mulch over the root zone, leaving the stem bases clear. Keep the planting accessible so damaged branches can be reached without stepping on or compacting the roots.

FEEDING

Routine heavy feeding is unnecessary. If growth is weak, check moisture, drainage, and light before applying fertilizer. Use a soil test to guide any needed nutrients and follow the product label. Avoid excessive nitrogen that promotes more growth than the planting space can accommodate.

SEASONAL CARE

Routine pruning is not needed to maintain its informal habit. Remove dead or damaged stems selectively. If flowers and fruit are wanted, avoid hard cutting in early spring because it removes the flowering wood. Major cutting for foliage alone is an optional tradeoff, not an annual requirement.

HELPFUL TIPS

Yellow to chartreuse foliage and reddish young growth are normal; they do not automatically indicate a nutrient deficiency. The red fruit is ornamental and poisonous to humans: keep children from sampling it. This guide covers Lemony Lace, not Black Tower or other European black elderberry cultivars.