FRINGETREE CARE

LIGHT

American and Chinese fringetrees (Chionanthus virginicus and C. retusus) grow in sun to partial shade, with a stronger flower display in a sunny position. Allow room for a broad shrub or small tree. Choose a permanent site rather than planning to move a mature specimen.

WATER

Water slowly after planting to moisten the entire root ball and nearby soil. Keep young plants evenly moist while roots establish, checking beneath the mulch before watering again. During prolonged dry weather, provide a thorough soaking rather than frequent light sprinkling. Avoid prolonged saturation.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use reasonably fertile, well-drained soil and plant at the original nursery depth, with the root flare visible on tree forms. Mulch lightly over the roots without piling against trunks. Leave space around the canopy and avoid repeated digging near established roots.

FEEDING

Avoid heavy feeding of healthy plants. Check light, moisture, and drainage before treating weak growth with fertilizer. Use a soil test to guide any needed nutrients, apply shrub fertilizer in spring at the label rate, and water afterward. Keep concentrated fertilizer away from stems.

SEASONAL CARE

Little routine pruning is needed. Remove dead, damaged, or rubbing branches selectively, and do light shaping after the spring flowers fade if necessary. Maintain the chosen single- or multi-stemmed framework. Avoid topping the plant or hard annual cutting to keep it in an undersized space.

HELPFUL TIPS

Fringetrees may leaf out later than nearby trees, so check for living buds before removing apparently bare wood. Both sexes flower, but fruit production depends on female flowering and compatible pollination. Match the species and cultivar to local hardiness; China Snow is a Chinese fringetree selection.