For the joy of gardening!
Estabrook's

SILKY DOGWOOD CARE

LIGHT

Silky dogwood, including Cornus amomum and C. obliqua selections such as Red Rover, grows in sun to partial shade. Give it space as a wildlife shrub, informal screen, or moist-site planting. Choose a location where its spreading, multi-stemmed habit fits rather than forcing it into a small formal tree.

WATER

Provide dependable moisture, especially during establishment and dry spells. Silky dogwoods tolerate wet ground and suit moist borders or drainage areas, but check the new root ball rather than assuming nearby wet soil has watered it. Water slowly at soil level and do not let nursery containers dry severely.

SOIL & PLANTING

Use moisture-retentive soil with organic matter. Keep the root flare at ground level and mulch lightly without burying stems. Allow room for suckering or stems that root where they touch soil. Avoid compacting the root area; manage spread by removing unwanted shoots rather than repeatedly trenching among established roots.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy plants may need no routine feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest spring dose of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen, late-season feeding, and adding lime automatically to acid-loving dogwoods.

SEASONAL CARE

Use selective pruning to remove damaged, rubbing, or crowded stems and retain an informal shrub framework. If shaping is needed, prune after flowering, recognizing that this removes some future berries. Avoid automatic annual hard cutting when flowers and wildlife fruit are priorities. Remove unwanted suckers while they are small.

HELPFUL TIPS

Flat white flower clusters and blue-toned fruits distinguish this group from large-bracted dogwood trees. Cayenne and Red Rover add ornamental stem or autumn color. Wet-site tolerance does not remove the need for establishment care. Allow natural spread where possible, and check leaf or stem decline before selecting a treatment.