DWARF PURPLE WILLOW CARE

LIGHT

Dwarf purple willow (Salix purpurea Nana), often called dwarf Arctic willow, grows best in full sun with room for a broad rounded shrub. Light shade is tolerated, but avoid a dark, cramped foundation corner. Choose a moisture-retentive site and space plants for their mature spread rather than their nursery-pot size.

WATER

Water slowly through the root ball and surrounding soil after planting. Check moisture regularly and water deeply when needed, keeping roots consistently moist during establishment. Adjust for rain, weather, and soil conditions rather than a fixed daily schedule. A new root ball can dry out even beside damp ground.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant with the root flare at or slightly above the surrounding ground level. Keep any graft union above soil. Mulch lightly across the root zone without touching stems. Protect roots from compaction, lawn equipment, and repeated digging. Leave room for the plant's mature spread rather than relying on repeated hard cutting.

FEEDING

Use a soil test to guide fertilizer and pH changes. Healthy willows may need little feeding. If nutrients are needed, apply a modest spring dose of tree or shrub fertilizer at the label rate. Avoid heavy nitrogen and late-season feeding; fertilizer cannot correct poor siting or damaged roots.

SEASONAL CARE

Keep the natural mound with selective thinning and removal of damaged stems. Established vigorous shrubs can be renewed in late winter or early spring when size or stem vigor requires it. Do not assume annual cutting to the ground is essential. Hedge trimming should preserve light reaching the lower branches.

HELPFUL TIPS

Fine-textured blue-green foliage and flexible stems are normal. Dwarf describes relative size and does not mean growth stops. This is a deciduous shrub, so winter leaf loss is expected. Check root moisture during dry weather and inspect for cankers or pests if foliage or stem health declines.