Dwarf Fothergilla

Fothergilla gardenii

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Witch Alder

Description:

A high caliber landscape shrub; features showy white "bottle-brush" flowers in spring on bare branches, spectacular fall colors and a very shapely rounded habit of growth, prefers light acidic soils; a great multipurpose garden plant

Ornamental Features

Dwarf Fothergilla features showy spikes of fragrant white flowers rising above the foliage in mid spring before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The round leaves turn an outstanding orange in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Dwarf Fothergilla is a dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a high maintenance shrub that will require regular care and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Suckering

Dwarf Fothergilla is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Dwarf Fothergilla in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Dwarf Fothergilla in fall
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover

Planting & Growing

Dwarf Fothergilla will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It tends to fill out right to the ground and therefore doesn't necessarily require facer plants in front. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 40 years or more.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for acidic soils, and is subject to chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage in alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.



Dwarf Fothergilla flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder