

# TIPS AND FAQs

## UPON ARRIVAL

When you receive your plants, immediately open the package to give your plants some fresh air and remove your plants from the box. Preferably open your box outside or somewhere that you don't mind getting messy, as some of the soil may have been shaken loose in transit.

Remove the plastic bag and sleeve from around the potted plant and discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil.

## WATER

Water your plants immediately after taking them out of the box. Give them enough water so that the soil appears damp and water trickles out the bottom of the pot.

## IF PLANTS APPEAR DRY

Sometimes plants may appear dried out and wilted after the voyage. Do not despair. Generally, when this happens the foliage may look lackluster but the rootstock is still perfectly healthy and alive. To plump your plants back up, water them and wait 5 minutes and then water them again. This will generally rehydrate them. Keep these plants well-watered until you can re-plant them into larger containers or in the garden.

If plants arrive dry, it is often because the roots have outgrown the small shipping pots and need more room to grow; roots tend to dry out quickly in small containers. This also means your plants are very much alive and when you transplant them into larger pots or the earth, they will start growing quickly! So, re-plant them as soon as possible.

## YELLOW OR BROWN LEAVES

When you receive your plants, there may be some yellowed or browned foliage on the plant. This is normal. Pull those leaves off your plant. This will encourage new leaves to grow.

If a lot of your plant looks yellow or brown and it makes you worried, take some scissors and cut your plant back, leaving about one inch of stem on the plant. This will give your plant a chance to restart and will promote bushier first season growth.

## TIME TO PLANT!

Your plants are now ready to be replanted! Pick a large container or area of the garden that you wish to place your plants. Give the soil you are about to plant into a nice deep watering before planting your plant. Pop your plants out of the shipping containers, replant, and water again.

We recommend replanting in the morning or evening when outside temperatures are not at extremes. This will allow for proper water uptake from the roots.

## FIRST YEAR MAINTENANCE

For perennials, the first year (or sometimes two) will require additional maintenance. During the first season of growth, even if the plant is known to be drought-tolerant, it is very important to water your plants on a regular basis, meaning up to 3-4 times per week. When plants are in their infancy stage, they need to be watered by their caretaker until they've had a chance to build a strong enough root system to subsist on their own. If you are experiencing severe heat, drought like conditions or your plants appear consistently droopy, you may need to water your plants almost every day.

## HOW TO PRUNE

In mid-March cut top 12" of all old growth. This stimulates new growth in the spring from all areas of the vine. You may prune the mid-section of your vine more heavily if that area rarely produces flowers. There are NO THORNS, so don't be scared to prune.

## CAN THESE BE GROWN IN CONTAINERS?

They prefer growing in the ground, but planted in containers that are at least 15" will work. Give them something to climb, such as a trellis, cage, or post.

## SUN OR NOT?

The plants can handle the full sun, but the root system prefers to stay cooler. To keep the roots cool, add a 2" layer of mulch at the base of the plants. Bark, gravel, rocks, or compost are all great mulches.



## Our Warranty (Perennials)

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at 1-800-428-9726 during the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm EST.

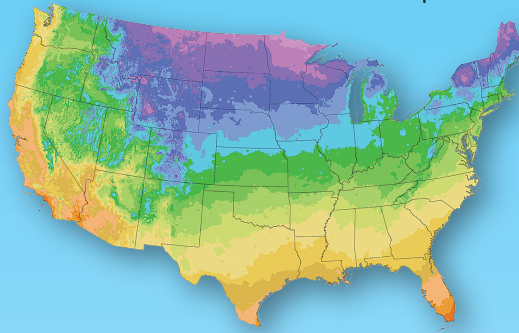
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Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

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## Plant Hardiness Zone Map



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

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## ROBERTA'S GARDENS PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



## Clematis Collections



## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	4 - 9
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	24 inches or more
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	8 to 10 feet tall 4 to 5 feet wide
BLOOM TIME:	Early Summer – Autumn by 2nd season
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Unpack your plant(s) immediately removing any packing material. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5-6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Water them thoroughly.

## PLANTING GUIDE

<b>1</b> STEP	Unpack your plant(s) immediately removing any packing material. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred.
<b>2</b> STEP	Plant in garden immediately after the night temperatures stay above 40 degrees. Give plants some type of support like a trellis, wire cage, netting, verandah post, mail box post, or arbor.
<b>3</b> STEP	Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5 to 6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Fill with soil and pack in firmly covering entire root zone.
<b>4</b> STEP	Water the plants thoroughly. Repeat a couple times per week all summer long.

## CONTINUING CARE

### KEY TIPS

Plants can take intense sun on the flowers and leaves but prefer a cooler shaded root zone sheltered from the sun retaining adequate moisture. Plant low growing plants in front of them to accomplish this if they are in hot sun.

### SHELF LIFE

Plant in garden immediately after the night temperatures stay above 40 degrees.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal and will take place as the plant grows. New leaves and stems appear as the old ones are cut away.

### TRAINING

Give plants some type of support as they are showy tendril climbers. A trellis, wire cage, netting, arbor, or verandah post. These vines grow rapidly.

### POTTED PLANTS

These plants prefer to be planted directly into the garden.

### SOIL PREPARATION

They prefer a well-drained, humus-rich soil as opposed to a clayish or rocky soil.

### PLANTING DEPTH and SPACING

Plant separately spacing about 2 feet. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5 to 6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Fill with soil and pack in firmly covering entire root zone.

### WATER

Water the plants thoroughly a couple times per week. Repeat all summer long. They like moisture in the soil at all times during the growing season.

### FERTILIZER

For best results, use a high acid fertilizer once or twice a month like Roberta's Bounty.

### LIGHTING

Full sun or partial sun. Plants can take intense sun on the flowers and leaves but prefer a cooler shaded root zone sheltered from the sun retaining adequate soil moisture. Use growing plants in front of them to accomplish this if they are in hot sun. Too little light will cause soft, limp foliage without flowers.

### BLOOMING TIME

Blooms after 8-10 weeks upon receipt during from summer - autumn. The second season they begin their blooming in early summer.

### TEMPERATURE ZONE 4 TO 9

You may place plants outside as long as evening temperatures stay above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. In the winter when they are dormant they are hardy to about minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

### PRUNING

In early to late March, cut away the top 12 inches of all old growth. This stimulates considerable new growth in the spring and summer from all areas of the vines.

### WINTERIZING

Plants rest from October through March and lose their leaves.

### PROPAGATING

These plants will re-bloom every year. They can be subdivided in early spring after 3-5 years. Dig down with a shovel into the middle of the root zone. Lift out one half leaving the other half intact. Keep the soil surrounding the roots intact on the lifted portion. Re-plant immediately giving the transplant and original plants extra water for a couple weeks.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Clematis Shipped As Shown

