

Tips for Success

We Help You Grow: Further information and growing tips can be found at RobertasUniqueGardens.com & QVC.com

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.

Plants look Dry or Foliage appears Lackluster: Sometimes plants may appear dried out and wilted after the voyage. Do not despair. 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 within the next week. 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. 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. Remove any yellow or brown foliage.

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.

Pruning: Like other oakleaf hydrangeas, it blooms on old wood (growth from the previous year), so be cautious with pruning. Avoid heavy pruning late winter or early spring as you may remove flower buds. It is compact, and pruning is typically unnecessary, but the best time to do it is late fall.

Planting Site: It tolerates some sun, but in very hot climates or the far southern part of the country, it will benefit from midday/afternoon shade to prevent stress. While it can handle shaded spots better than some hydrangeas, too deep shade may reduce blooms and diminish fall color! For the best fall foliage and bark interest, plant where you or others can see it in autumn/winter. Even though it is compact and shorter than others, it will spread quite significantly and reach 4-5' wide. They excel as a hedge, a specimen, corner softener, or at the back of the border, planted in a row, or in a container.

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertasUniqueGardens.com.

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.

Perennials



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

Images shown may not be representative of your sets specific colors.

Proven Winners® Ruby Slippers® Oak Leaf Hydrangea *Hydrangea quercifolia* hybrid



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

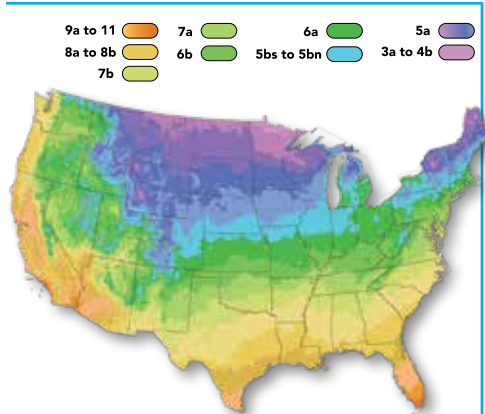
Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

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Quick Reference

-  **Plant Type** Perennial
-  **Light/Sun** Full Sun to Partial Shade
-  **Mature Height** 3-5'
-  **Mature Spread** 4-5'
-  **Bloom Time** Summer to Fall (second season)
-  **USDA Hardiness Zones** 5 to 9



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take plants out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants. Give them some water and place them in a warm shaded area for 1-2 days before replanting.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig a deep enough hole so that the entire plant easily fits into the hole and the top of the soil line of your plant is flush with the top of the soil in the hole you have dug. It is important that the soil line of your plant does not protrude above the soil line in the ground or container. Space plants according to the mature spread of the plant as shown in the Quick Reference section. For instance if the mature spread is 12", space between 10-14" apart, depending on if you would like for the plants to lightly touch or be slightly separated.

Potted Plants: A container with a 26-30" diameter (for long-term growth) and 20-24" depth is recommended to adequately allow for the mature size of this plant. Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain.

Soil Preparation: If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. Use a high-quality potting mix or compost like aged bark for moisture retention. A small amount of perlite for drainage too. Oakleaf hydrangeas prefer a slightly acidic soil (ph 5.5-6.5).

Watering: To determine if your plant needs water, put your finger in the top of the soil and if the top inch is dry, it is time to water. It is important to make sure young plants do not experience long periods of dryness. Keep evenly moist, but they do not like soggy conditions. Ensure good drainage holes in the pot base. In hot weather, check daily as container hydrangeas dry out faster than in-ground plants.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants. Some plants are toxic to pets. Do your diligence to protect your pet.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Remove plants from their box and take off other packing materials. Open your box outside or somewhere you don't mind getting messy, as some of the soil may have been shaken loose in transit.

Step 2 Check if your plant is thirsty. They probably need a nice drink of water after their voyage. If the plant feels light or the soil is dry to the touch, give your plants a watering.

Step 3 Allow your plants time to adjust to their new home before re-planting by placing them in a warm shaded spot for 1-2 days. Then they will be ready for re-planting with renewed vigor.

Step 4 Pull away or cut off any yellow or brown leaves, or any old flowers, this is normal.

Step 5 Transplant into the garden or containers as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes the width of the root ball and deep enough so that the original top of the soil is flush with the new soil line. Water the new location before and after planting your plant. This will help the young roots stay hydrated. Once you've placed your plant in the hole, fill in the rest of the hole with extra soil or potting mix, ensuring the entire root system is covered with soil.

