

Tips for Success

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. It is essential to water them often during the active growing summer months. You do not want the soil to dry out completely during the hot summer months.

Wintertime: It happens every so often that citrus will lose some of their foliage in the winter. This is normal and a result of having less sun and heat. During the winter you will also water your plants less, maybe once or twice a week. To help ensure extra success, place Key Lime under a single clamp on light and keep the light on all day long. A simple LED bulb is fine and this one bulb will give your plant the extra lighting it needs to succeed.

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. Feel free to prune off any unruly branches at this time as well.

Trick to Fruiting inside the Home: In order for fruit to form on your plants, your flowers must get pollinated. When your plants are outside the flowers will generally be pollinated naturally from bees or other insects. But during the cold winter months if flowers form inside the home that will not get pollinated by insects, simply take a cotton swab and dab the pollen from each of the flowers. Transferring the pollen by hand from one flower to the next will pollinate the flowers to encourage flower formation.

Key Lime: Widely considered the most flavorful of all limes, it is also a very easy plant to grow. These plants must be grown outdoors in the summer and then brought indoors in the winter. Keep them outdoors as long as the night time temperatures remain above 45F. During the summer, they love as much heat and sun as possible, and likewise lots of water and regular fertilizing once a week. Regular deep watering is the best. Water until you see it trickle out the bottom of the plant. If the weather is quite hot, it may require water once or twice daily. If foliage begins to look droopy in the summer, increase your watering.



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Key Lime
Citrus aurantifolia

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 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST. You can email questions to us at: plantquestions@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within 90 days 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.

Annual and Tropical Plants

*Thank You
for bringing us into
your home*

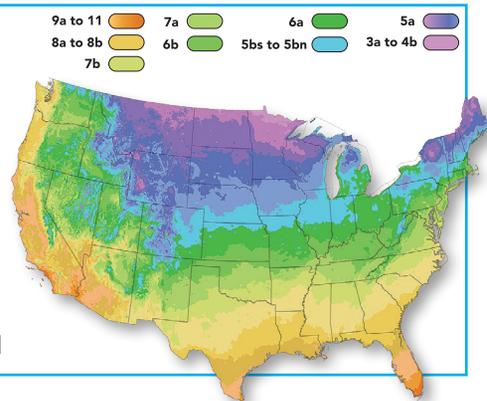
Roberta's Unique Gardens
P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182
Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

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Quick Reference

-  **Plant Type:** Tropical
-  **Light/Sun:** Full Sun
-  **Mature Height:** 2-4'
-  **Mature Spread:** 1-3'
-  **Bloom Time:** Repeatedly year round by second year
-  **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 9 to 11



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 sunny area for 1-2 days before replanting.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Most of us will need to plant these in containers, but for those that live where temperatures stay warm year round, dig a hole deep enough so that the entire root system can easily fit in the hole and no roots are exposed. Any exposed roots will cause them to dry out too quickly. Space plants about 5 feet apart in the garden.

Potted Plants: Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Repot into a larger 12-18" pot. For a traditional look, terra cotta is the container of choice. Do not plant multiple together in a single pot.

Soil Preparation: Bagged potting mixes for the garden for houseplants is a good choice.

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. During the active growing summer months, watering often is very beneficial. You can water less frequently in the winter.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long. Key Limes respond well to being fed often.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

Blooming: Key Lime will flower on and off all year round starting the second season. Their wildly fragrant flowers are not to be missed!

Fruiting: Generally the heaviest fruiting period is in the winter inside the home. They will often have a lighter fruiting period in the summer as well

Pruning: The best time to prune is early summer during the active growth period to encourage new branching. Cut away any branches that are growing inwards, cross one another or look unsightly. Beware of prickles when pruning.

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. Be careful of prickly areas near leaf nodes

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 sunny 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 a larger 12-18" container with adequate drainage. Use nutrient rich potting mix when replanting.

