

## Tips for Success

**We Help You Grow:** Further information and growing tips can be found at [RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com) & [QVC.com](http://QVC.com)

**Water:** Water your plants immediately after planting them. Continue to water them at least once a week while they're getting established the first summer. Amsonia is drought tolerant after establishment.

**Companion Plants:** Echinacea coneflower, Rudbeckia, Salvia and Russian Sage are a few perennials that Arkansas Blue Star pairs well with in the garden! It makes an excellent backdrop for fall-blooming perennials such as sedums and garden mums.

**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.

**Native and Pollinator Friendly:** This perennial is native to Central United States and it's highly attractive to butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects. This perennial supports native ecosystem diversity. And the excellent, feathery foliage contains milky sap that deters deer and rabbits.

**Native Arkansas Blue Star:** This is one of the most admired native American perennials, especially in Arkansas and Oklahoma where it is commonly found along the riverbanks and open woodland areas. It's valued for not only its soft blue flowers, but even more for its incredible fine-textured foliage and glowing golden fall color! Brilliant golden yellow foliage and its revered as one of the best fall displays of any perennial out there. Truly three seasons of interest with soft, blue flowers in late spring, feathery mounds of fine foliage in summer and then vibrant golden yellow color that glows like an ornamental grass.



# Roberta's Gardens

## PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



### GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

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

## Arkansas Blue Star

*Amsonia hubrichtii*

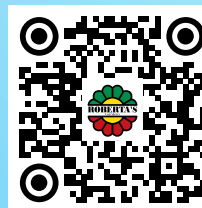
We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: [customerservice@robertasinc.com](mailto: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](http://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 Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

[RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com)

@robertasgardens Roberta's Unique Gardens

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type** Perennial

 **Light/Sun** Full to Partial Sun

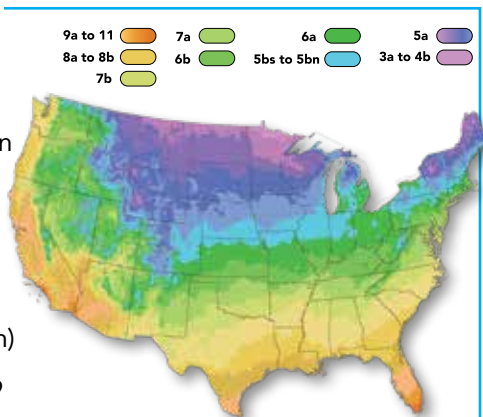
 **Mature Height** 3'

 **Mature Spread** 3'

 **Bloom Time** Late Spring

- Early Summer (second season)

 **USDA Hardiness Zones** 4 to 9



## Plant Caretaking

**Upon Arrival:** Please take the bare roots out of their plastic bags. You may store bare roots in the fridge for up to 3 weeks if you can not plant immediately.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a deep enough hole so that the entire bare root fits easily into the hole and can be covered with an additional 2" of soil on the very top. These clumps have roots radiating from a central point and when planted these fleshy roots should be put in the soil facing downward. In the garden space about 3.5-4' apart.

**Potted Plants:** Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Use at least a 15" container per root.

**Soil Preparation:** If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. If your soil is too rich or it is sited in too much shade, this plant may flop slightly. Better in lean, well-drained conditions with at least 4+ hours of full sun.

**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. However, they also do not like soggy conditions.

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

**Pruning:** After blooming it quickly grows to reach a height of about 3'. Though not required, cutting back and removing 1/3 of the top foliage shortly after flowering will result in even fuller growth and prevent flopping.

**Winter Dormancy:** You can let stems stand through winter for structure, but then cut back in early spring. Or you can simply cut the foliage back hard to about 8" from the ground in late fall or early spring. Remember to wear gloves when working with Amsonia since the stems release a white sap.

**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 bare roots from the 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** Discard any unattached pieces of old roots or crown remnants. If planting in the garden wait until the ground has thawed. Dig a hole so that the entire bare root can fit easily into the hold with the roots going downward. Back fill hole with soil and ensure the top is covered with 2" of soil. It is important that at least 2" of soil covers the very top so that the bare root doesn't dry out.

**Step 3** Water your newly planted bare root thoroughly. Wait to water again until you see sprouts coming out of the ground.

