

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.

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.

Caprese Salad Recipe: Simply place large slices of ripe tomatoes on a plate, add slices of Mozzarella cheese and freshly picked basil. Drizzle over some olive oil (and perhaps some balsamic vinegar) and sprinkle with a bit of salt and pepper. Voila!

Caprese Salad Garden: There's nothing more exciting than eating fresh home grown tomatoes and basil in the heat of summer. It is what summer dreams are made of! And this collection will be sure to have you salivating. We've tested and trialed thousands of tomato and basil varieties and determined these two are the BEST for home gardeners looking for perfect Italian caprese salad at the dinner table. Mountain Man Tomato yields a bounty of meaty red tomatoes, while Rutgers Passion Basil is a fast grower perfect in pots producing innumerable sweet leaves.

Basil: To encourage bushier Basil plants with more foliage for harvesting, cut off any flowers that many form. You can pick the foliage and use it fresh or lay it on a cookie sheet over night to dry the herb, storing it in a bag or plastic container until ready to use. Bring basil indoors during the cold months when nights dip below 45F and bring back outdoors in the spring.



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



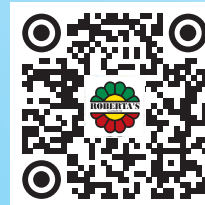
Caprese Tomato & Basil Collection
Solanum lycopersicum & Ocimum basilicum

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 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 tree 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.



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

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Annual and Tropical Plants

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Annual

 **Light/Sun:** Full Sun

 **Mature Height:**

Tomato 3-3.5'

Basil 2'

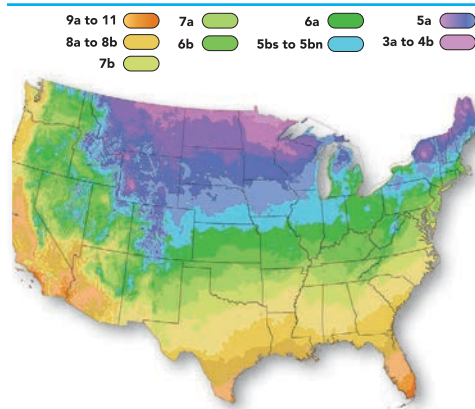
 **Mature Spread:**

Tomato 2-3'

Basil 1'

 **Bloom Time:** Spring to Fall

 **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. Remove any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig a hole that is about 4-6" deep and about twice the width of the root ball. After you've placed the plant in the hole, cover with soil ensuring all the roots have been covered. In the garden, space basil about 10-12" apart and tomatoes about 36" apart.

Potted Plants: Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Re-pot the Basil into pots that are about 8-12" wide and the Tomatoes in pots that are about 16-24" wide. This will allow your container to fill out nicely. You may also plant multiple plants together in an even larger pot.

Soil Preparation: If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. For containers, any standard potting mix is fine.

Watering: Tomatoes require heavy, consistent watering to produce the best yield. Inconsistent watering can lead to black spot on the foliage. Basil needs average watering, generally once every couple days is enough.

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.

Harvesting: Under correct conditions the Basil will be ready for harvesting in about 30 days and the Tomatoes in 45-50 days.

Winterizing: The tomatoes are an annual and can be discarded once they've stopped producing fruit. The Basil should be brought indoors and placed near a sunny window while cold temperatures persist. You can leave Basil outside as long as night temperatures stay above 45F, otherwise bring it indoors.

Cages/Support: Tomato plants will produce fruit up to 1 pound so it is wise to add some structure or support to keep your plants upright.

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 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 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.

