

## 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.

**Why do we love Russian Sage:** Russian Sage is one of the easiest, longest blooming plants in the garden. Typically they will bloom for many months on end without ever taking a rest and they will thrive in some of the harshest conditions including extreme heat and drought. They will also do great in just about any soil as well.

**What is special about this variety:** Little Spires Russian Sage is our favorite hybrid because it is a wonderful garden performer growing only about 2-3 feet tall and wide. This means it will never flop or need staking and it is compact enough to be grown all around the garden or even in containers. It also has gorgeous fragrant silvery foliage that complements its violet-blue flowers superbly.

**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.

**Do Pollinators like Russian Sage:** Of all the plants in the garden, Russian Sage is one of the absolute best ways to ensure pollinators will come to your garden. This is extremely important because without ample pollinators, you will not be getting the most out of your plants. Try planting around your veggie plants to make sure your veggies get adequately pollinated producing the highest yield possible.



## Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



**Little Spires Russian Sage**  
*Perovskia hybrid*

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 [RobertaUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertaUniqueGardens.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

**RobertaUniqueGardens.com**

 @robertasgardens  Roberta's Unique Gardens

*Perennials*

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

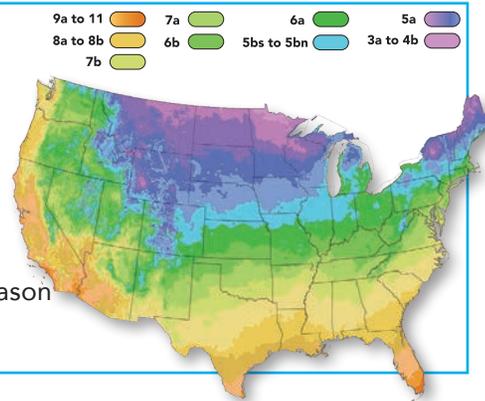
 **Light/Sun:** Full Sun

 **Mature Height:** 24-36"

 **Mature Spread:** 18-24"

 **Bloom Time:** Summer  
through Fall, by 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 sunny 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 the about the mature spread of the plant as shown in the Quick Reference section.

**Potted Plants:** 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. In reality, these will grow in just about any soil. Try to plant when you are clear of any frost.

**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. Water a couple times per week during the first summer. They will be fairly drought tolerant once established too.

**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.

**Pruning:** In late autumn cut plants back to around 6-8" above the soil line. Leave this little bit of foliage to help protect the crown and roots during the winter. If you wish to wait you can prune the foliage back in early spring as well.

## Planting Steps

**Step 1** Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves or spent flowers that may have occurred during transit. If you cannot plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered

**Step 2** Transplant into the garden as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5 to 6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Pack soil firmly around roots. Fill with soil and pack in firmly covering entire root zone. Water again. Plants prefer partial sun or full sun.

**Step 3** Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Repot the plants into at least 10 inch pots separately or together inside one larger container.

**Step 4** Planted now they will produce flowers in the summer by the second season.

**Step 5** Upon Arrival: Please take the bare roots out of their plastic bags. It is best to trim away any yellow or brown leaves or dormant foliage as this is normal. This initial grooming will help encourage fresh new growth. You may store bare roots in the fridge for up to 3 weeks if you can not plant immediately.

