

Tips for Success

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

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.

Special Characteristics: This new cultivar of the smooth hydrangea species *Hydrangea arborescens*, has been bred with extremely sturdy stems that hold up the flower heads even during heavy rain storms—hence the name "Storm Proof". Because of the strong stems, this cultivar is less likely to collapse under heavy rain or to even become top-heavy. This "storm proof" feature is especially appealing because in the Midwest you often get heavy summer rains and storms. These stronger stems will resist flopping and keep the display neater with less maintenance.

Smooth Type Hydrangea: Smooth type hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*) form their flower buds on the current season's growth rather than last year's stems. This trait makes them highly garden reliable for consistent blooms each summer, even after harsh winters or heavy pruning! You can cut them back hard in late winter or early spring, and they'll still flower beautifully that same summer. It is a North American native and naturally found in woodland edges and slopes. Dependable blooming, native hardiness, and low maintenance care makes this variety one of the most forgiving types for gardeners in cold or variable climates.

Cut Flowers: The sturdy stems and dense blooms make it a good choice if you're planning to use blooms in arrangements!



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

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

Proven Winners® Incrediball Storm Proof™ *Hydrangea arborescens*

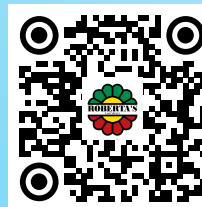
We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

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 Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

@robertasgardens Roberta's Unique Gardens

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type** Perennial

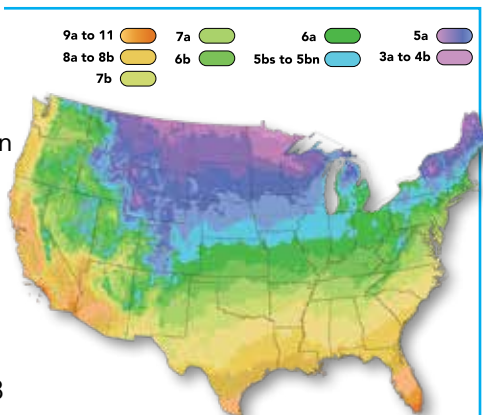
 **Light/Sun** Full to Partial Sun

 **Mature Height** 3.5-4'

 **Mature Spread** 3-4'

 **Bloom Time** Summer
(second season)

 **USDA Hardiness Zones** 3 to 8



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: Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. You may plant in a large container that is 22-24" in diameter and 18-20" deep to allow for the mature growth.

Soil Preparation: If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. Ph and soil color won't affect bloom color (since it's a white blooming type). Because these plants are quite heavy drinkers, adding a two inch layer of mulch can help conserve moisture, requiring less watering. Apply in spring and winter.

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.

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

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

Pruning: Because flowers emerge on new wood- prune in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. You can cut back stems by about 1/3 their height to encourage strong new growth with good branching. Even if winter kills some stems, you'll get blooms!

Sun Preference: For the biggest, most abundant blooms, plant where it gets at least 6 hours of full sun each day (warmer climates can get away with a bit less).

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.

