

## 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 important to keep new plants well-watered for their first year of growth, making sure they do not become dried out for prolonged periods. This may mean watering your plants 3-4 times per week or more, depending on your region's weather. As years progress, your plants will not require as much care. 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.

**Plants Look Dry or Foliage Appears lack Luster:** 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. If a lot of the plant's foliage has yellowed, you may cut the foliage back to just above the soil line. This will give your plant a chance to restart, and it encourages bushier, thicker growth.

**Time to Plant!** Your plants are now ready to be replanted. Follow the planting guide inside for detailed instructions on how to most effectively plant your new plants.

**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.

**Winter Care and Pruning:** Although actually a woody shrub, Caryopteris is usually cut back each spring or late autumn to 6 inches and treated more like a perennial. Plants form a bushy, upright mound of green leaves, the fragrant purple-blue flowers forming on new wood in late summer and fall. Extremely attractive to butterflies! Pruning does not have to be an annual ritual. Prune them only if they've gotten too large or if there is dead wood to be cleaned out. If you live in the far West and South, your shrubs will only be only partially dormant. If you prune them during the winter, they may be severely shocked because they have not yet finished pulling all their nutrients from the stems for storage in the roots. Instead, prune in early spring just before growth starts again.



## Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



**Blue Empire™ Caryopteris**  
*Caryopteris x Clandonensis*

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](mailto:plantquestions@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 tree 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.

**Perennials**

Thank You  
for bringing us into  
your home

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

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

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## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

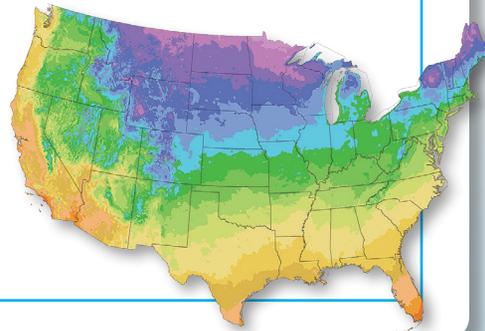
 **Light/Sun:** Full Sun

 **Mature Height:** 30-40"

 **Mature Spread:** 24-36"

 **Bloom Time:** Mid Summer  
through Autumn

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 5 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 sunny area for 1-2 days before replanting.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a hole that is about 5-6" 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 about 3 feet apart

**Potted Plants:** Rather than in the garden you may re-pot into large containers. Re-pot the plants into a container that is about 18-24 inches wide. They do great as stand alone plants in pots, or in mixed containers.

**Soil Preparation:** Plants prefer well-draining, fertile soil. Amend clay or sandy soil with potting mix, organic matter, or compost.

**Watering:** Water upon planting and a couple times per week during the first season. This Caryopteris will become more drought tolerant once established, starting the second or third season.

**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.

## 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.

