

## 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. 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. 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.

**How do I keep my soil acidic:** Blueberries do need an acidic soil to fruit properly for years on end. Upon planting amend the soil with compost, leaf mold, peat moss, or aluminum sulfate. Every spring and fall do the same unless you naturally have an acidic "low Ph" soil of 4.5 to 5.0. Most of us have soils that are neutral 7.2 where amending is necessary. Lowering soil Ph is a slow process that takes a couple years. Do not hurry it.



## Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



**Jersey Blueberry Bush**  
*Vaccinium corymbosum*

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 tree 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.



**Roberta's Unique Gardens**

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

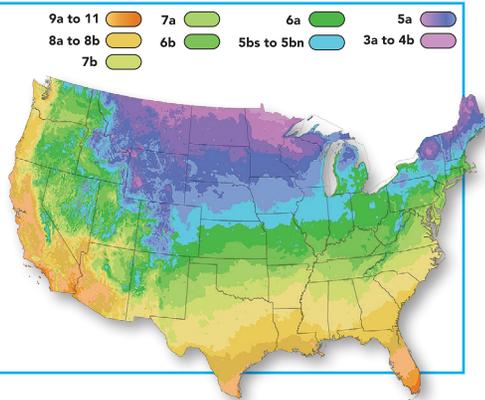
**RobertasUniqueGardens.com**

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*Perennials*

## Quick Reference

-  **Plant Type:** Perennial
-  **Light/Sun:** Full Sun
-  **Mature Height:** 4-5' plus
-  **Mature Spread:** 3-4'
-  **Bloom Time:** Fruits early summer, by second season
-  **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 4 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 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 about 4' apart in the garden.

**Potted Plants:** This particular type of blueberry bush prefers to be planted directly into the soil. If you must put them in a pot, then do so separately and make sure to put use a large 18-24" diameter container. Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Place one plant in a 15-24" container.

**Soil Preparation:** If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. They need very fertile, slightly acidic soil that drains well. To increase acidity add sulfur to the soil according to package directions.

**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. Blueberry plants need to have a steadily moist soil to stay healthy and produce the best bounty of fruit.

**Fertilizer:** Use Roberta's Bounty Time Release Fertilizer a couple weeks after planting.

**Pet Considerations:** Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

**Pruning:** These compact plants do not generally need much pruning. However, to encourage healthy renewal each season, prune back about 1/4 of the plant in the late winter or early spring. Remove dead wood, damaged branches, branches growing inwards or crossing other branches, or branches close to the ground.

**What can be done to counteract birds:** Birds do eat blueberries as they do many other types of berries. The birds will peck at the fruit just when ready to ripen. If you really have a problem, net the plants.

**Winter Care:** These are tremendously winter hardy. However, adding a 2-3 inch layer of mulch will provide a bit of extra warmth.

## 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.

