

## Tips for Success

**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.

**What Problems Can Bleeding Hearts Have?:** Occasionally bothered by slugs and snails, but this not a serious threat. If the soil poorly drains, and is overly wet, the crowns of the plants may rot. Avoid these soils and allow good air circulation.

**Are They Deer Resistant?:** Yes. Remember, we say "deer resistant" and not deer proof. Young plants may be at a greater risk of being eaten and younger deer may eat anything in sight as they learn what they do and do not like.

**Where Are They Best Planted?:** They thrive in any partial to full shaded area. They are well suited in woodland borders, edges, perennial shade gardens, pots, barrels, and urns.

**What Are Some Companion Plants?:** Some nice companions are other shade or part sun loving plants such as aquilegia, ferns, tiarella, campanula, alchemilla, heuchera, and pulmonaria to name a few. Bleeding Hearts are truly right at home in any woodland garden.



## Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



### GENERAL GROWING GUIDE

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

## Bleeding Heart *Dicentra spectabilis*

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.

Perennials



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

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

@robertasgardens Roberta's Unique Gardens

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

 **Light/Sun:** Partial Sun to Partial Shade

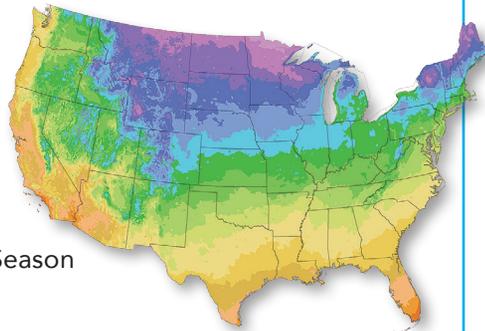
 **Mature Height:** 24-36"

 **Mature Spread:** 30-36"

 **Bloom Time:** Late Spring to Early Summer, by Second Season

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 3 to 9

9a to 11  7a  6a  5a   
8a to 8b  6b  5bs to 5bn  3a to 4b   
7b 



## Plant Caretaking

**Upon Arrival:** Please take the bare roots out of their plastic bags. You may store bare roots in the fridge for up to 3 weeks if you cannot plant immediately. Store them within a paper bag or cardboard box in a cool, dry location.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a deep enough hole so that the entire bare root fits easily into the hole and can be covered with an additional 2" of soil on the very top. These clumps have roots radiating from a central point and when planted these fleshy roots should be put in the soil facing downward. In the garden space about 3' apart.

**Potted Plants:** Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Use at least a 12" container per root. You may plant a couple roots together in a larger container.

**Soil Preparation:** If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. They enjoy and grow nicely in evenly moist, rich soils. 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.

**Fertilizer:** Use Roberta's Bounty after you've started to see sprouts growing and then once or twice a month all summer long.

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

**Winter Care:** After the first frost, cut plants back to the ground. You can apply a 1-2" layer of mulch around the base to help insulate the roots for the winter. You may also perform a small spring cleanup and trim back any brown or dead leaves leftover in early spring. Usually in the springtime, you can easily just pull away any brown foliage.

**Division:** Propagation is quite easy and often done to spread the wealth and if you notice a decline in flower production after a few years. The roots can be subdivided after 4-5 years in springtime. Just stick a shovel or trowel down between the clumps and pull apart anywhere. They love it! Share the wealth.

## Planting Steps

**Step 1** Remove bare roots from the 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** If planting in the garden wait until the ground has thawed. Dig a hole so that the entire bare root can fit easily into the hole with the roots going downward. Back fill hole with soil and ensure the top is covered with 2" of soil. It is important that at least 2" of soil covers the very top so that the bare root doesn't dry out.

**Step 3** Water your newly planted bare root thoroughly. Wait to water again until you see sprouts coming out of the ground.

**Step 4** Continue to water through the spring and summer growing season a couple times each week and more frequently during hot, dry spells or if there is not adequate rainfall during the first year. Bare roots do not like soggy conditions, so only water when necessary. 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.

**Step 5** Make sure your new plants do not dry out for prolonged periods of time. Young plants need their roots to stay moist but not soggy while getting established. This may mean watering your plants every few days, and even more often for plants in containers or during periods of drought. You may add a 1-2" inch layer of mulch or compost on top to help keep moisture in.

