Tips for Success

**Water:** Once you have gotten your bulbs planted, give them a generous watering. Continue to water throughout the autumn and winter if the soil is not getting sufficient precipitation from rain or snow. Determine if they need water by putting your finger in the top of the soil and if the top inch is dry then that means it is time to water. They are not fussy about soil but detest soggy conditions.

**When to Plant My Bulbs:** These bulbs can be planted anytime of year, however we think the best time is to plant them in the fall. Planted in autumn they will have an opportunity to create a solid root system over the winter so that they can flower the following spring.

**Where to Plant Foxtails:** These long-lived perennials are a true stunner when in bloom, they will illuminate your garden. Growing 4-5’ tall, they will grow best when they have some sort of shelter from the wind, such as being planted along a fence, near hefty evergreen shrubs, or along the foundation of the home. They prefer to be kept in the same location for many years, so choose a spot you love and let them make themselves at home.

**Plant Care after Flowers have finished:** In order to ensure that your bulbs return the following year, after the flowers have finished you must leave the foliage in the ground. Eventually it may wither away naturally, but if it does not, you may cut it back after summer has finished and your plants have had a chance to soak up enough sun rays to fuel them for the following spring.

**Foxtail Lilies:** These stately perennials bring height and interest to the borders and flower beds. If the starfish shaped bulbs arrive dry, give them a nice soak in water before planting. Be sure to handle with care and the roots can be brittle and easily break off. You may need to stake your plants if they are exposed to windy conditions.
Step 1: Remove plastic bag or sleeve from around the tuberous root and discard any packing materials. If necessary, you may store them for a month or longer in a cool dry place for up to 3 weeks. Be careful handling them as they can be damaged easily.

Step 2: They require soil that drains well year round. When choosing your garden location, it is helpful to amend heavy soils with potting mix. The time to plant is when evening temperatures average between 40-50F. Dig a hole 12” wide and 4-5” deep. If possible add a 1-2” layer of sand or gravel beneath the bulb to add drainage. This will keep it from getting winter rot. Spread the bulb out in the hole with the tall center bud pointing upwards.

Step 3: Mound the soil up underneath the bottom of the bulb so the roots spread outward and downward. Cover the roots and top crown with 2 inches of soil. Water them in well. Continue to water through the winter if there is not adequate rainfall. But beware, Foxtails hate soggy conditions, so only water when necessary to avoid rot.

Step 4: Cover your plants with a layer of mulch or compost to protect them from freezing winter temperatures.

Step 6: Fertilize your bulbs about a month after planting with Roberta’s Bounty. Wait until you see growth the next spring to fertilize again.

Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Please take plants out of the box immediately and remove any shipping materials from around the plants. For extended storage, you may place in the refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Plant roots about 4-5 inches beneath the top of the soil. Add a layer of sand or gravel beneath the bulb to add drainage. Space bulbs about 9-12 inches apart.

Potted Plants: Foxtails will often perform better in ground rather than containers but if using pots make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. You may plant one bulb per 12” container.

Soil Preparation: Bulbs need a site with soil that is well-draining and will receive about 6 hours of sunlight a day. They perform best with a layer of sand or gravel beneath the bulb. Add a 1-2” layer of mulch or compost on top of the soil after planting for winter protection.

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. Beware, they detest soggy conditions and will rot if left soggy for too long. Water only as needed when winter precipitation does not suffice. Watering every 10-14 days is generally enough through winter. Once spring has arrived and growth occurs, you may water about once a week to ensure the foliage is not drying out while flowers are forming.

Where to Plant: They love a sunny location that drains well. They like to be relatively sheltered from wind and will do fantastically when planted near structural evergreen shrubs that help keep them out of the wind.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta’s Bounty a couple weeks after planting in the fall and then again in the spring when sprouts emerge.

Pruning: Allow foliage to remain in the garden all summer long so that the foliage can absorb the sun’s ray and convert that to energy it can use the following spring. After summer is over, you may cut back foliage if it is unsightly.