

# QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

<b>LIGHT / SUN EXPOSURE</b>	Full sun
<b>USDA HARDINESS ZONES</b>	8 to 11
<b>PLANT TYPE</b>	Annual / Perennial
<b>PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND</b>	1 to 3 feet apart
<b>CONTAINER SIZE</b>	8 to 11 inches wide
<b>MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD</b>	24 inches wide 24 inches tall
<b>BLOOM TIME</b>	Late Spring until early frost
<b>TIME TO REACH MATURITY</b>	45 days.
<b>FACTS OF NOTE</b>	Great pollinator. Attracts butterflies & hummingbirds. Highest nectar content. Heat & drought tolerant. Needs no deadheading. Pest and disease resistant. 



**ULTIMATE INNOVATIONS**

at ShopDePalma.com

**We want you to love our plants and our brand!**

Our *Let's Get Growing Warranty* offers a one year warranty on perennials, and a 90 day warranty on annuals from time of shipment. If you have any problems, please contact us immediately. If possible, we will replace it with a similar or comparable plant, at our discretion depending on availability. Call us at 949-492-8191 or email PlantHelp@ShopDePalma.com with any questions after you receive your plants. We want you to enjoy gardening, plants and flowers as much as we do!

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effect. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

In case of ingestion, contact a poison control center immediately. 1-800-222-1222

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## HUMMINGBIRD FEAST

\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.

## OUT OF THE BOX

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below.

If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps:

1. Remove plants from clam shell and place in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED IN POTS. PLANT SIZE MAY VARY BASED ON GROWING CONDITIONS.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

**Important:** Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove from clam shell.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

## SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

## CONTINUING CARE

### WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

Over-watering can be as damaging as under-watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

Once they take root, plants can tolerate drier growing conditions.

### MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

### WEEDING

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

### FEEDING

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st to allow your plants to harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in spring.

### PRUNING

Cupheas are self-cleaning, so no deadheading is needed to ensure continuous flower production. If you want to make your plants bushier and more compact, you can prune or pinch them back in late spring to encourage more branching and, in turn, more flowers.

### WINTERIZING

If you live in a frost-free climate, you can also grow it as an evergreen perennial. Can also be used as a houseplant. In cold areas, containerized plants can be brought into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar before temperatures drop below freezing. Check soil moisture every 2-3 weeks and water as needed during winter. Cuphea can be used as a houseplant or in a hanging basket.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How should I plant my Hummingbird Feast?

Plant in late spring after all danger of frost has passed.

Plant in full sun or partial shade in compost-rich, well drained soil. Where summers are hot and dry, cupheas benefit from a bit of shade.

### Where should I plant my Hummingbird Feast?

Cupheas are ideal for full sun or partial shade beds, borders, butterfly and hummingbird gardens. Beautiful in hanging baskets or stunning in planters. Cuphea looks great with other mixed annuals or perennials.

## FAQ

Hummingbird Feast is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard.