

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### HOW DO I PRUNE AND HOW MUCH?

Pruning can be done virtually anytime during the growing season, but keep in mind that cutting willows back, particularly back to the ground, will stimulate new growth. Year 2 and onwards, in late winter to early spring you can prune all the rods back to the point from which they grew the previous year. These can be used for arrangements. Coppicing a willow (one that is cut back to ground level) will result in numerous rods growing from the crown or stool. The tremendous growth rate of willows results in rods that grow to 4 to 10 feet in a season.

### HOW DO YOU PREP CUT PUSSY WILLOWS?

After the growth has been cut off it can be placed in water to stimulate the catkins, or it can be used for basketry, living willow structures, twig furniture, wattle fencing and more.

### DO I HAVE TO PRUNE PUSSY WILLOWS?

No you never have to prune. However, if you started by coppicing (one that is cut back to ground level) a willow, and then would like to let it grow unpruned, here is a tip. Just let them grow, as they turn into really attractive large shrubs; the old wood will get big and eventually die. This old wood should be prune out.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN A DROUGHT?

Pussy Willows do not usually need watering except when they are first planted, in time of drought, or in late fall before the ground freezes for the winter. At these times, water generously, thoroughly soaking the ground. A layer of mulch on the soil at the base of the shrub will help retain the moisture in the soil longer. Older, well-established shrubs need watering only during severe drought.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

Thank you for your order!

Take your gardening experience to new heights by visiting Roberta's Unique Gardens. Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S. and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come.

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

[www.robortasinc.com](http://www.robortasinc.com)

## ROBERTA'S GARDENS

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Pussy Willow Collection  
(*Salix chaenomeloides* Giant Silver,  
*Salix melonostachys* Black Catkins)

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	4-8
PLANTING DISTANCE:	5-6 feet
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	Height - Giant Silver 10-12 ft, Black Catkins 6-10 ft Spread - 5-6 feet
BLOOM TIME:	Late Winter-Early Spring 2nd Season
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Transplant into the garden as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F.

## PLANTING GUIDE

1 STEP	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.
2 STEP	Transplant into the garden as soon as evening temperatures stay above 40F. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5-6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Pack soil firmly around roots. Water again. Plants prefer full sun to half day of sun.
3 STEP	These need to be placed in the garden and not in containers.
4 STEP	Planted now they will produce flowers in late winter to early spring beginning the second season.

## CONTINUING CARE

### SHELF LIFE

Plant into garden or larger pots and place outside immediately after the night temperatures stay above 40 degrees.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

### POTTED PLANTS

Not recommended.

### SOIL

Grow in fertile, moist but well-drained soil. Willows will grow in any deep, moist but well-drained soil in full sun. Amend clay type soils with compost or potting mix.

### GARDEN PREPARATION

They prefer full sun but half day will do.

### PLANTING SPACING

If planting in garden space 5 to 6 feet apart.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

Giant Silver will grow to about 10 to 12 feet and Black Catkins 6 to 10 feet. Both grow about 5 to 6 feet wide.

### WATER

Water upon planting. They can take average watering to

### FERTILIZER

They respond to feeding with well balanced fertilizer once a month in the summer.

### TEMPERATURE ZONES 4 to 8

When nights stay above 40 degrees, place your plants outside and leave them there. They can withstand winter temperatures to minus 40F.

### LIGHTING

Full sun is the absolute best. Otherwise a half a day of sun is sufficient.

### BLOOMING

Under correct conditions, blooming begins in late winter to early spring starting the second season.

### PRUNING

Pruning can be done virtually anytime during the growing season, but keep in mind that cutting willows back, particularly back to the ground, will stimulate new growth. Year 2 and onwards, in late winter to early spring you can prune all the rods back to the point from which they grew the previous year. These can be used for arrangements. Coppicing a willow (one that is cut back to ground level) will result in numerous rods growing from the crown or stool. The tremendous growth rate of willows results in rods that grow to 4 to 10 feet in a season. If you do not cut them back new growth will be less vigorous and new buds will be far and few between.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Pussy Willow  
Shipped  
As Shown



Giant Silver Pussy Willow  
Harvest



Giant Silver  
After Blooming  
3rd Season



Black Catkins