

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CAN YOU PLANT THEM DIRECTLY INTO THE GROUND?

If you live in Zone 8 or higher you can plant directly into garden once temperatures remain above 50F. They will survive the winter and return the following spring. In Zones 7 or lower they will not winter over and must be brought inside as a container plant.

### DO THESE TROPICAL PLANTS PREFER FULL OR PARTIAL SUNLIGHT?

Elephant ears grow well in either full sun or partial shade. In areas with moderately warm or cool summers, they do well in full sun; but in regions with hot summer sun, a spot that gets morning sun followed by filtered shade in the afternoon is best. This plant is a heavy feeder and needs regular fertilizing to put out best and fastest growth. Elephant ears grow well in an organically-rich soil for the best and fastest growth,

### DO THESE LARGE LEAVES TAKE A LONG TIME TO DEVELOP?

No. For the size of the foliage, these are some of the fastest growing plants around. Although they are not winter hardy, they will grow and reach its full maturity of around 3-5 feet each summer in a stunning fashion.

### LEAVES OFTEN DROOP IN SUMMER?

These like good hot sun and will often droop if placed in low light. And if they have not received enough water during excessive heat they will droop until watered perking up rather quickly.

## 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.



## Our Warranty (Annuals and Tropical Plants)

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at 1-800-428-9726 during the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm EST.

You can email questions to us at:  
[plantquestions@robertasinc.com](mailto:plantquestions@robertasinc.com).

If your bulbs, cuttings etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within 90 days 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 free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [www.robertasinc.com](http://www.robertasinc.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.

Neither the retailer nor any other company involved in the sale or promotion of this product is a co-warrantor of this plant warranty.

### Plant Hardiness Zone Map



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

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## ROBERTA'S GARDENS PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Elephant Ear  
(*Colocasia esculenta*)



## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial Sun
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	6 to 11
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	3-4 feet
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	2-6 feet 3-4 feet
BLOOM TIME:	n/a
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: <small>(soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)</small>	Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water thoroughly. Transplant into the garden or larger pot as soon as evening temperatures stay above 50F.

## PLANTING GUIDE

<b>1</b> STEP	Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water thoroughly. Cut away any broken or brown fronds that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal and stimulates new growth.
<b>2</b> STEP	If you live in Zone 6 or higher you can plant directly into garden once temperatures remain above 50F. In Zones 5 or lower they will not winter over and must be brought inside as a container plant.
<b>3</b> STEP	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. Fill with soil and pack in firmly covering entire root zone. Water thoroughly.
<b>4</b> STEP	These plants respond to regular monthly fertilizing with a balanced houseplant food that promotes growth.

## CONTINUING CARE

### HOW FAST DO THEY GROW?

These grow really fast once the summer heat kicks in. During these periods adequate watering insures healthy and vigorous growth.

### POTTED PLANTS

As a fine container plant they can be grown indoors year round or withstand about plus 10F outdoors. Repot the plants into larger 10 to 12 inch pots separately. You can transplant gradually one pot size per year up to 20 inches in diameter.

### SOIL

They like bagged potting mixes for houseplants that will drain well. Most garden centers carry various brand names with perlite, vermiculite, soil and sand.

### GARDEN PREPARATION

If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil for adequate drainage. In the garden they can withstand minus 5F.

### PLANTING SPACING

If planting into the garden space them 10-12 feet apart. If planting into a container allow for adequate air ventilation on deck or patio.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

Depending on variety, these will grow to 2-6 feet tall and 3-4 feet wide each summer.

### WATER

Only average watering is needed. Do not over water. Water them in well in the garden. Let top 3 to 4 inches of soil dry out before each watering. In pots, water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot.

### FERTILIZER

To promote more flowers use a well balanced fertilizer like Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) monthly in summer.

### LIGHTING

Full sun is best outside in summer. Otherwise a half a day of sun is sufficient.

### TEMPERATURE ZONES 6 to 11

Once established they are hardy to about minus 5F in the garden and plus 10F in containers. If you live in Zone 6 or higher you can plant directly into garden once temperatures remain above 50F. In Zones 5 or lower they will not winter over and must be brought inside as a container plant.

### GROOMING AND PRUNING

Normal grooming should occur in summer if the fronds turn brown – and they will as new ones grow in bigger numbers. Just cut them away. It is that easy. If you prune the main stem before the cold weather frost occurs, they will grow back rather quickly and thicker as long as warm weather continues.

### WINTERIZING

If you live where it freezes, prune hard leaving about 5 inches above ground level after first heavy frost. Cover with a few inches of mulch, straw, hay, or pine needles around all sides about two feet in diameter. After threat of last frost in spring remove mulch. The stem will be soft and gelatinous but the crown underneath the soil will sprout new shoots.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Elephant Ear  
shipped as shown



Extremely fast growing  
with large foliage each  
summer



Adds a tropical flair to your  
garden or pots