

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT TYPE OF SPRING PLANNING IS NEEDED?

Astilbes come as either bare root crowns or in containers. Plant the crowns in the early spring. Potted plants can be planted any time up through mid-August. Astilbes have hearty appetites. Sprinkle a handful of an all-purpose slowacting granular fertilizer on the soil around each plant clump in the spring or feed with watering as soon as they come up. At the beginning of each new season, if you have not already done so, cut back all Astilbe stems and dead foliage in the early spring, and spread fresh mulch if it is needed to get that layer to 2 to 3 inches deep.

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO GROW IN GARDEN?

Although somewhat tolerant of full sun, the Astilbe is truly a shade lover. It will thrive in partial to full shade. Perfect for a rock garden, herbaceous border, or in containers, the Astilbe is fairly easy to grow and is hardy in zones 4-9. They love moisture, so a good soaking every day or so is recommended. Astilbe does grow best in fertile soil that is rich in organic matter. Depending on the variety, Astilbe bloom between June and September. The various hybrid forms of this versatile perennial plant are easy to grow and, as their feathery flowers dry, are attractive well into the winter. They are excellent low-maintenance plants as long as their soil is moist.

HOW CAN YOU DRY THE FLOWER FRONDS?


Astilbe fronds are particularly useful and attractive in dried arrangements. Their feathery flower plumes shrink when air dried, so use borax preservation techniques. Use borax or a borax and cornmeal combination (roughly 1:4). Cover the bottom of a box long enough to accommodate the length of the Astilbe frond with 2 inches of the borax medium. Then lay the Astilbe frond lengthwise on the bed of medium and pour more medium in until the frond is completely buried by an inch or two. Leave the box uncovered, since the moisture is evaporating naturally as the plant is supported by the borax medium. Check in 3 weeks to see if the frond is sufficiently dried. If not, return it to the box, recover it and wait a few more weeks. The time varies depending on the fleshiness of the plant and the humidity.

FIRST THINGS FIRST...

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

Keep bare roots inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

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 (Perennials)

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.

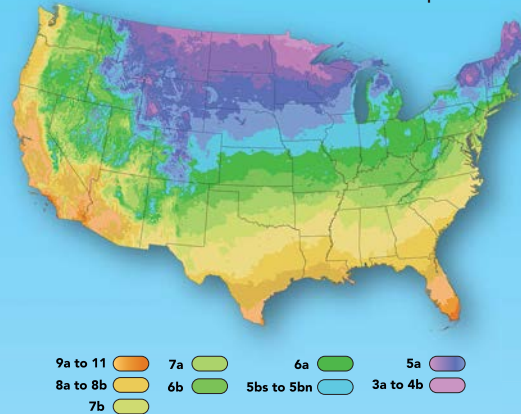
You can email questions to us at:
plantquestions@robertasinc.com.

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 free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at 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



ROBERTA'S GARDENS PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Astilbe 'Music Series'
(Astilbe x arendsii hybrids)



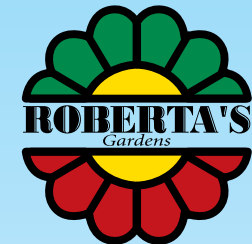
1-800-428-9726

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

Thank you
for bringing us into your home

www.robertasinc.com

Roberta's, P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Partial Shade or Dappled Sun
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	4 to 9
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	24-30 inches
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	16-18 inches 20-24 inches
BLOOM TIME:	Early Summer - Early Fall
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:	Keep bare roots(s) inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Plant them in the garden once the ground has thawed accordingly. Keep these moist all summer long.
<small>(soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)</small>	

PLANTING GUIDE

1 STEP	Keep bare roots(s) inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.
2 STEP	Plant them in the garden once the ground has thawed accordingly spacing them 24 inches apart. Cover the top of crown with 2 to 3 inches of soil. Partial shade or dappled shade is required.
3 STEP	Keep these moist all summer long. In the garden, the bulbs will sprout when the soil temperature rises usually around May.
4 STEP	Planted now each bulb will produce flowers in summer – fall.

CONTINUING CARE

SHELF LIFE

Keep bare roots(s) inside packing material until ready to plant into ground or container. Put in a cool, protected area and plant as soon as possible. For extended storage time, place in refrigerator for up to 3 weeks.

DETERMINING THE BOTTOM OR TOP OF BULB

Please refer to image on next page.

PREPARATION

These can be planted immediately in pots. If planting bulbs into the garden itself, wait until the ground is permanently thawed.

GARDEN LOCATION

They prefer partial shade to dappled sun. Cover them with only a couple inches of soil spacing about 24 inches apart.

POTTED PLANTS

You may plant them one per 12 inch pot or combine together into larger pots.

SOIL

Use a regular potting or garden soil.

WATER

Keep moist. Water upon planting and at least a couple times a week all summer long.

SPACING

In garden space at least 24 to 30 inches apart.

HEIGHT AND WIDTH

These grow about 16 to 18 inches tall and 20 to 24 inches wide.

FERTILIZER

This helps maintain flower size and count from year to year. For best results, use Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) twice a month all summer long.

LIGHTING

Partial shade or dappled sun is preferred.

BLOOMING

These will bloom in the first season and thereafter from early summer to fall.

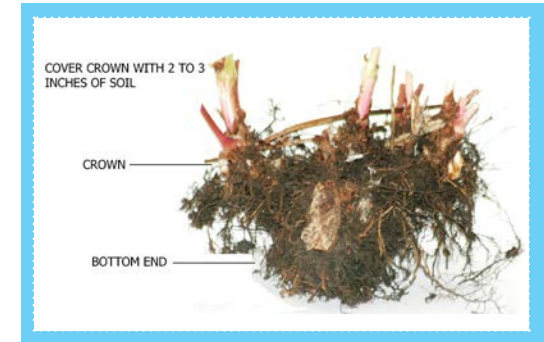
TEMPERATURE ZONE 4 to 9

If they are planted in the ground, they will come up at the right time without worries of frost damage. If they are planted in pots, you may place your pots outside and leave them there all summer long when nights stay above 40F. They are hardy to minus 30 F below 0 if planted in the garden and a little less if planted in pots.

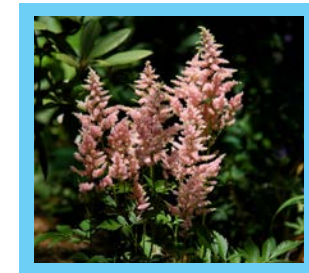
WINTERIZING/PRUNING

In late autumn or early spring, cut plants back to the ground. In the spring, if the crown has risen above soil level, gently press it back into the ground and apply some organic matter around the plant. Plants should be divided in early spring every 3 to 4 years to maintain vigor.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Astilbe
Shipped
As Shown



Established
1st Season Astilbe



Established
2nd Season Astilbe



Mature
Astilbe