

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHERE IS THE BEST TIME TO PLANT FOR MY AREA?

They must be planted in the fall rather than in the spring because they require a long period of cool temperatures (minimum 6 weeks) in order to encourage flower bud initiation. If you live in Zones 7 and below, plant as soon as the ground is cool, when evening temperatures average between 40-50 degrees F. You should plant at least six weeks before the ground freezes. If necessary store bulbs for a month or longer in a cool dry place like your garage or basement.

If you live in Zones 8 and above, pre-chilling will help the stems grow taller and flower better. To pre-chill, leave bulbs in their bags and place in a refrigerator for 6-10 weeks. Be careful not to store near fruit, especially apples, because ripening fruit gives off ethylene gas which can damage or kill the flower inside the bulb.

## WHERE SHOULD I PLANT MY HYACINTH?

Choose a sunny location or one with some afternoon shade. Make sure the soil drains well because they will not tolerate standing water and will rot in soggy ground. Plant near your front door or along walkways so you can enjoy their intoxicating perfume.

## DO I NEED TO DIVIDE THEM?

After a few years you may notice a decline in the number of flowers because of overcrowding. After the flowers are spent and the foliage has started to brown, cut off the dying leaves and dig up the bulbs, divide and re-plant elsewhere.

## ARE THESE CRITTER RESISTANT?

Yes! Deer, squirrels, and rabbits rarely bother early bulbs, however, we say 'deer resistant' not 'deer proof' and if it has been a rough winter and they are hungry enough the little critters may eat them. If you have a history of problems with critters eating your bulbs you could cover your spring bulb bed with chicken wire and your flowers will grow right through them.

## IT'S SPRINGTIME AND I FOUND SOME BULBS THAT I FORGOT TO PLANT IN THE FALL. DO I SAVE THEM?

No! If they are still plump and firm, plant them now. Bulbs are living plants and they cannot wait because they will dry out. Either chill them in a refrigerator for use indoors as forced bulbs or plant them into the ground outside. Because the bulbs are tough, chances are you may still get some results, even if you plant them late.

# FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plants arrive from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs. Plant in the fall 6-8 weeks before a hard frost and but before the ground freezes.

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.



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 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](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-warantee of this plant warranty.



# ROBERTA'S GARDENS

## PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



## Plant Hardiness Zone Map



1-800-428-9726

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM EST

Thank you  
for bringing us into your home

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

@robertasgardens Roberta's Unique Gardens  
Roberta's, P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182



## Hyacinth Collections (*Hyacinth orientalis* hybrid)

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial Shade
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	3-10
PLANT TYPE	Perennial
PLANTING DISTANCE:	4" (if planted in a group- 6 bulbs per sq. ft.)
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:	10-12 inches 4 inches
BLOOM TIME:	Mid Spring
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs. Plant in the fall before the ground freezes.

## PLANTING GUIDE

1  
STEP

Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs.

2  
STEP

Plant in the garden when evening temperatures average between 40-50F degrees, but before the ground freezes.

3  
STEP

Rather than in the garden you may plant into large containers.

4  
STEP

Planted now, they will produce flowers in early spring. To encourage more flowers, feed with Roberta's Gardens Hawaiian Flower Magic (M7503).

## CONTINUING CARE

### SHELF LIFE

Plant into garden when the night temperatures average 40 to 50 degrees F. If necessary store bulbs for a month or longer in a cool dry place.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Remove any packing material clinging to the bulbs.

### POTTED PLANTS

Rather in the garden you may plant into containers. Make sure the containers have adequate drainage holes; hyacinth must not sit in water logged soil or they will rot. Any commercially available potting mix will work fine. Plant 3-4" deep and 2-3" apart with the points facing upwards. Water thoroughly. Roots will develop in the autumn and may develop foliage in warm winter areas. Suggested quantities for planting in pots:

12-15" pots, plant 10-12 / 10" pots, plant 9 / 8" pots, plant 7

### SOIL PREPARATION

Hyacinths require soil that drains well year round, amend your soil to improve drainage.

### GARDEN LOCATION

These prefer full sun, but in hotter areas they prefer a little afternoon shade. They will grow right through groundcover like creeping phlox, thyme and stonecrop. Avoid planting them amongst deeply rooted groundcovers like ivy and pachysandra. Wherever you plant them, make sure the soil drains well because they may rot in soggy ground. If planting in a group plant 6 bulbs per square foot and site them along a walkway, or somewhere that you can enjoy their sweet fragrance.

### PLANTING DEPTH AND SPACING

If you live in Zones 7 and below, plant 6-8 inches deep and 3-4 inches apart with the pointy end up. If you live in Zones 8 and above, plant 4 inches deep and 3-4 inches apart with the pointy end up.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

These will grow about 10-12 inches tall and 4 inches wide.

### WATER

Water in well after planting. Do not plant near soaker hoses or sprinklers.

### FERTILIZER

A well-balanced fertilizer such as Roberta's Flower Magic (M7503), is recommended after planting and again every fall thereafter to help stimulate root growth and then again in the spring when the foliage is starting to push through the soil.

### LIGHTING

Full sun is best but will tolerate light shade, especially in warmer climates.

### BLOOMING

Blooms in mid spring. The blooms are popular for their sweet fragrance and bright, cheery colors.

### TEMPERATURE ZONE 3 to 10

These are hardy down to minus -40F when planted in the ground.

### DORMANCY

After the flowers have bloomed you may cut the flower head off but do not cut the foliage. The bulbs use the leaves to gather energy for next year's flowers, once the leaves have turned yellow or brown you can cut them to ground level.

### PROPAGATING

The best time to move or divide bulbs is when the foliage has all but withered. Lift and divide bulbs; replant immediately into their new location at the same depth and about three times their diameter apart.

### FORCING BULBS

Bulbs may be forced into early growth for indoor display in winter, but they require a dormancy period in or order to flower when forced. Place them in a refrigerator for about six weeks before forcing. Plant them with the tips just showing, in soil-based potting mix in containers with drainage holes. Keep in a dark place at temperatures above freezing but no higher than 45F for at least 10 weeks to allow roots to develop. When shoots are about 1 inch long, increase light and temperatures gradually. Water carefully and avoid wetting the shoots or waterlogging the soil. After flowering, they may be planted in the garden and they will flower again in subsequent years.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Hyacinth Shipped as Shown



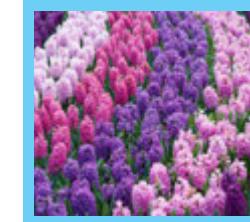
Wonderful along the frontside of a border



Splendid for various container cultures



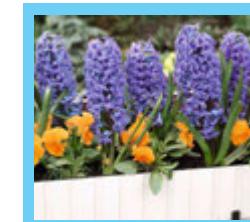
Thick blooms with a lovely sweet fragrance



Hyacinths in a mass planting



They effortlessly naturalize in the garden



Hyacinths and viola in a window box blooming together



Grace and fragrance in the garden