**Frequently Asked Questions**

**When 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 8 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 9 and above, planting fall bulbs in warm climates requires pre-chilling in order to bloom. 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 Fritillaria?**
In colder northern climates, these do well in full sunny locations. In warmer regions, they appreciate light afternoon shade. Pick an area that is well-drained and is protected from strong winds. Plant behind shorter plants that will help camouflage the foliage as it dies back after blooming.

**Are These Critter Resistant?**
Yes. These have a distinct odor that repels most critters and it’s particularly successful at deterring voles. Crown Imperials are highly recommended to plant in amongst other spring flowering bulbs that are not deer and rodent resistant as they are highly effective at deterring these animals.

**Do I Need to Deadhead the Blooms?**
After the flowers have died, allow the foliage to yellow and die back in order to make food for next year’s blooms. Don’t cut it back. Once the foliage has yellowed and dried, it may be removed by gently pulling it out of the soil. If the leaves do not easily pull away from the bulb, they are not ready to be removed. Your bulbs will rest for a few months before beginning the next growing cycle. Fritillaria likes it on the dry side when they are dormant. No need to water the bulbs during this time.

**Do I Need to Divide Them?**
Established crown imperials do not like being disturbed, but can be propagated by digging and dividing offsets from the parent bulbs in the summer after the foliage has died back. Pot up smaller bulbs immediately, and place them in a bright, protected area for the first year to allow them to develop sturdy root systems. Larger bulbs should be replanted immediately into their permanent locations.

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**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-insurer of this product warranty.

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**Fritillaria Collections**
(Fritillaria imperialis hybrids)

**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 when evening temperatures average between 40-50 degrees F, 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.

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**Plant Hardiness Zone Map**

![Plant Hardiness Zone Map](image)

**Our
gardens**

**Robertas' Gardens**
PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE

- **1-800-428-9726**
  Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm EST

Thank you for bringing us into your home

www.robertasinc.com

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

1. **STEP**
   - **LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:** Full to Partial Sun, or Dappled Sun
   - **USDA HARDINESS ZONES:** 3-10
   - **PLANT TYPE:** Perennial
   - **PLANTING DISTANCE:** 10-12” (if planted in a group: 4 bulbs per sq. ft.)
   - **MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:** 36+ inches
   - **12-18 inches**
   - **BLOOM TIME:** Late Spring to Early-Summer
   - **PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:** 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.

2. **STEP**
   - **PLANTING GUIDE**
     - Remove plastic bag and/or sleeve from around the bulbs. Discard any packing material clinging to the bulbs. Plant in the garden as soon as possible.

3. **STEP**
   - **STEP**
     - Rather than in the garden you may plant into large containers.

4. **STEP**
   - **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 as soon as possible.
- **PLANT PREPARATION:** Remove any packing material clinging to the bulbs. The bulbs tend to be large and will often have a hollow center where the stem from the previous year grew. They can be fragile, so handle with care before planting. Plant as soon as possible after receiving them.
- **SOIL PREPARATION:** Fritillaria requires good drainage, so amend the soil with sand or peat moss to increase drainage.
- **GARDEN LOCATION:** These will grow in full sun, partial shade, or even in mostly shady areas with just dappled sun. Place them where they will be protected from strong winds and behind other plants that will camouflage the foliage once the leaves start to die back.
- **PLANTING DEPTH AND SPACING:** Because these bulbs often have a hollow center created from last year’s flower stalk, it is suggested that they be planted on their side in order to prevent water building up in the center causing rot, otherwise plant pointy side up. If planted on their side, they will adjust and find their way up through the soil. Plant bulbs 6-7 inches deep and 10-12 inches apart.
- **POTTED PLANTS:** You may plant these into large planters or tubs using good quality, multi-purpose compost with sand added to the mix.
- **PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH:** These will grow about 36-48 inches tall and 12-18 inches wide.
- **WATER:** Water in well after planting. Roots will form in the fall with foliage and flowers forming in the spring.
- **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:** These will grow in full to part sun, light shade, or even dappled sun.
- **BLOOMING:** Blooms late spring to early summer. These flowers are rare and unique.
- **TEMPERATURE ZONE:** 3 to 10
- **PLANT TYPE:** Perennial
- **PLANTING DISTANCE:** 10-12” (if planted in a group: 4 bulbs per sq. ft.)
- **MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD:** 36+ inches
- **12-18 inches**
- **BLOOM TIME:** Late Spring to Early-Summer
- **PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:** 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.

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE**

- **Fritillaria Shipped as Shown**
- **Tall, stately and ever-prominent in the garden**
- **Rare, unique grand orange flower crown**
- **Crown Imperials thriving in this partially shaded woodland setting**
- **These fiery orange flowers are a standout along this walkway**
- **Yellow and Orange Fritillaria established in the garden**
- **Eye-catching flower crowns each spring**

**3-2016**