

OUT OF THE BOX

CLETHRA RUBY SPICE

Your plants are shipped in grower's pots. Don't be alarmed by their small size or lack of foliage. Once planted they may take 4-6 weeks, depending upon the weather and other environmental conditions, to start showing new growth. You can be assured that they will begin setting roots and start growing very soon after planting. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care, and be patient.

We urge you to plant your new arrivals as soon as possible. In the event planting must be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag that is around the plant down and place in or near a bright window. Also, keep the soil in the pots moist. These are small pots that may need to be watered at least every other day.

The foliage on potted plants may appear wilted or yellow upon receipt. This is nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly then gently remove any foliage that doesn't "perk up".

**Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.*

Thank you for your order

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

CAUTION: Not all plant material is edible.

Though most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances which can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness, or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food products should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control center at once and advise them of the plant ingested.

Keep out of reach of children.

CLETHRA RUBY SPICE



QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun to partial shade.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	3 to 9.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	3 to 4 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	3 to 6 feet tall with a 3 to 4 feet spread.
BLOOM TIME	Mid to late summer.

SOIL PREPARATION

Although these plants will perform well in average garden soils of all types, we recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.csrees.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). These tests can determine if the soil needs any amendments to enhance your plants' growth and performance. See below for our recommended practice to improve your soil without any additional testing:

- 1 Spade or till the soil to a depth of 12-18 inches.
- 2 To provide nutrients and improve drainage, add organic matter to your soil by mixing in a 2 to 4-inch layer of dehydrated manure, garden compost, shredded leaves, and/or peat moss.
- 3 After active growth begins, periodically feed with a water soluble fertilizer. Plants in containers need more frequent watering and feeding, especially when in active growth and bloom.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: Thoroughly rehydrate the plant and its surrounding soil before planting so it may properly adapt to its new location. We recommend submersing the root zone of the plant in a container of water for 2-3 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the plant.
2. After watering, separate the root ball from its pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and gently squeezing the sides of the pot with the other. Do not yank on the stem; the plant should easily slide out of the pot with just slight pulling.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool. Loosen any roots that have begun winding around the soil ball and prune any rotted or damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and refirm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential during the plant's first year in your garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil surrounding the root zone are more effective than frequent light applications of water that may wet the top of the soil only.

Due to individual plant needs, geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is hard to define; however, as a rule of thumb you should not allow the soil to completely dry out. During periods of drought and extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every day.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant does not become a water-holding bog and that there is adequate drainage to move excess water away from the plant.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

MULCHING	Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost or other organic mulch around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures, and to discourage weed growth.
WEEDING	Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with all plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.
GROOMING	No pruning necessary. Shape in spring after blooming if desired. Older plants can be renewed by removing some of the oldest wood as flowering is generally better on younger stems.
FEEDING	Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st so your plants can harden off for winter dormancy. Resume fertilizing when new growth appears in the spring.
WINTERIZING	A thorough watering in late fall will greatly enhance the plant's cold tolerance. The time to protect your plants in the garden is after the ground has frozen. At that time, apply a winter mulch of evergreen boughs, straws or leaves to prevent lifting of the plant's roots during alternating periods of freezing and thawing. For container planting, move plants next to your home's southern foundation for added warmth and protection. They may also be moved into an unheated, protected area such as a garage or cellar. If moved to a protected area, be sure to check the soil moisture every 7-10 days and water as needed. In spring, remove the mulch from in-ground plantings. Also, bring containerized plants back out into the garden sunlight where they will immediately begin to repeat their yearly garden performance.