

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Not winter hardy. Will thrive from spring to fall in all zones.
PLANT TYPE	Annual.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 12 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	Okra 'Baby Bubba': 36 to 48 inches tall with a 24 to 30 inch spread. Pepper 'Cajun Belle': 24 inches tall with a similar spread. Tomato 'San Marzano': 36 to 48 inches tall with an 18 inch spread.
BLOOM TIME	Summer to frost.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	8 to 12 weeks.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible. High-yielding. Perfect for patios.



Thank you for your order.

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. Please use the following resources for questions regarding your order:

www.CottageFarmsDirect.com

[CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting Guides](http://CottageFarmsDirect.com/Planting%20Guides)

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888-593-3644

9960 Padgett Switch Rd.
Irvington, Alabama 36544

Cottage Farms' Guarantee

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. Cottage Farms warrants its perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, Cottage Farms 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 ship the following shipping season.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of a plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

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SOUTHERN DELIGHTS
VEGETABLE GARDEN

*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.

OUT OF THE BOX

SOUTHERN CHARM VEGETABLE GARDEN

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. Please remove the plants from the packaging right away and plant them as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant them right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around each plant and place them in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plants well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover for few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office (www.nifa.usda.gov/extension or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.
4. Dig a hole at least twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Tomatoes are a rare exception where planting deeply is actually beneficial. Plant each tomato where only 3-5 inches of the stem is above the soil line. Tall tomato plants can be planted on their side in a trench with the tops bent upward. Peppers and Okra should be planted so that the top of the root ball is even with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole or trench with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING

Adequate and consistent watering is essential for vegetables. Inconsistent watering or soils that do not hold water evenly can cause problems with fruit development.

Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. You may need to water as often as every day in periods of drought and extreme summer heat.

Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

HARVESTING

Tomatoes are ready to be harvested once they have changed from green to red. Store freshly picked tomatoes at room temperature and out of direct sunlight. To preserve flavor and texture, avoid refrigerating fresh tomatoes. Do not consume any other part of the plant.

Harvest peppers once the color has changed from green to red. Do not pull the peppers off the plant. Instead, use a knife or pruning shears to make a clean cut. After harvesting, fresh peppers can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 10 days. Do not consume any other part of the plant.

Harvest okra when the pods are 2-3 inches in length by cutting them from the stem with hand pruners or a knife. Do not consume any other part of the plant. Wear gloves when handling okra plants to prevent the stiff leaf hairs from irritating your skin.

MULCHING

Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.

WEEDING

Keep the area around your plants free of weeds. Weeds compete with surrounding plants for food, water and light. Walk around the garden periodically and pull weeds, including the roots, as soon as you see them.

FEEDING

To maximize the growth and performance of your plants, feed them once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables.

WINTERIZING

Tomatoes, peppers, and okra are tender annuals that cannot tolerate any frost or freezing temperatures. In the event of a late spring frost, protect young plants by covering them overnight with a sheet, frost blanket or an inverted bucket or box. Remove any material used to cover the plants the following morning. The plants should be discarded when they have finished fruiting at the end of the season.