

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Not winter hardy. We recommend planting in containers so you can move the plants indoors before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Annual/Edible.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 18 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	Chocolate Mint: 18 to 24 inches tall with a similar spread. Peppermint: 18 to 24 inches tall with a similar spread. Spearmint: 18 to 24 inches tall with a 10 to 12 inch spread.
BLOOM TIME	Late summer.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 months.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmdirect.com.

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**

HERBS



*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

HERBS

Your plants have been shipped to you in pots. We urge you to remove them from the shipping box and plant them as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed, remove the plastic bag from around the pots, place the plants in a sunny location, and keep them well-watered. Once planted, they will begin growing new roots and, depending on the time of year, growing new foliage.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

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 twice as deep and twice as wide 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 re-firm the soil.
5. Water thoroughly.

CONTINUING CARE

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

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. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.

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.

WATERING

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

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.

DRYING

For best results, cut leaves for drying on a hot, dry day. After cutting, wash the leaves and pat them dry with paper towels. Tie the leaves in a small bunch and hang them in a sunny area until all the water has evaporated, then move them into a well-ventilated area away from bright light to finish drying. If the leaves are not completely dry after two weeks, you may place them in a 100° oven to finish drying.

Once dry, remove the leaves from the stems and store them in airtight jars kept in a warm place for 7-10 days. Check the jars daily for moisture and remove the leaves for further drying if any appears. Once no moisture remains, the dried herbs are ready to add flavor to your favorite dishes.

FEEDING

Feed your plants once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer. Discontinue feeding after September 1st to allow your plants to prepare for winter.

WINTERIZING

To enjoy your herbs for multiple seasons, plant them in containers and move them indoors before the first frost. Select a room that is bright, preferably one with southern exposure. Indoors, plants tend to dry out from a lack of humidity. To boost the humidity level around your plants, fill a shallow tray with gravel and water then place the pots in the tray. The water level should be slightly below the gravel so that the pots are not submerged in water. As the water evaporates, it will create a more humid environment for your plants.

Watering should be reduced significantly while the plants are indoors. Do not overwater or allow your plants to sit in water. Remove any unsightly or dead growth as needed over the winter to maintain an attractive appearance.

In the spring when temperatures begin to rise, ease the plants into a full watering schedule and move them back outdoors for the summer.