

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full to part sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in zones 9-10. In zones 3-8, we recommend planting in a container so you can move the plant indoors before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Annual.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 18 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	18 to 36 inches tall with an 18 to 24 inch spread.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Colorful foliage. Great for mixed containers. Makes an excellent houseplant.

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.



Thank you for your order.

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

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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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Cottage Farms Direct
PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE

PERSIAN SHIELD

*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

PERSIAN SHIELD

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

1. Roll the plastic down around the plant and place it in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant 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 in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED IN A 5.5-INCH POT.
PLANT SIZE MAY VARY BASED ON GROWING CONDITIONS.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

We strongly recommend planting in a container in order to properly protect your plant from winter damage. Use the following instructions as a guide for container planting.

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

A Fill the container with soil to within 4 inches of the top. Remove the pot and prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. Dig a hole in the soil to insert the lower part of the root ball.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

B Once the plant is properly positioned in the pot, begin filling the pot with soil. Work the soil around the root ball with your hands, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. When the hole is filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.

C Water well and, if necessary, adjust the plant so it is upright and add additional soil if needed. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.



CONTINUING CARE

WATERING Adequate and consistent watering is essential for your plants. 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 periods of drought or extreme summer heat, you may need to water as often as every few days. 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.

FEEDING Feed your plants once every 7-10 days during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer such as **Cottage Farms' Carefree Bud-N-Flower Booster (SKU #M7582)**.

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.

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.

PRUNING Remove any dead, damaged, or unsightly growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. Persian Shield may be trimmed if desired to encourage a full, bushy habit.

WINTERIZING In zones 9-10, Persian Shield may be planted in-ground and left outdoors over winter. If freezing weather is expected, protect the roots by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of the plant. Potted plants should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights.

In colder zones, Persian Shield should be grown in containers and kept as houseplants or moved 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 plant, fill a shallow tray with gravel and water then place the pot in the tray. The water level should be slightly below the gravel so that the pot is not submerged in water. As the water evaporates, it will create a more humid environment for your plant.

Watering should be reduced significantly during the winter months. Do not overwater or allow your plant to sit in water. Remove any unsightly or dead growth as needed to keep your plant looking tidy.

In the spring when temperatures begin to rise, ease the plant into a full watering schedule and, if desired, move it back outdoors for the summer.