

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/Edible.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 18 inches apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	Eggplant 'Patio Baby': 10 to 24 inches tall with an 18 to 22 inch spread. Pepper 'Giant Ristra F1': 24 inches tall with a 15 to 18 inch spread. Tomato 'Sweetheart of the Patio': 24 to 36 inches tall with an 18 to 22 inch spread.
BLOOM TIME	Mid summer to frost.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 months.

VARIETAL INFORMATION

Eggplant 'Patio Baby' - A dwarf eggplant that's excellent for planting in containers. The petite, thornless plant produces 2-3 inch fruits and continues fruiting throughout the season.

Pepper 'Giant Ristra F1' - A productive pepper with heat similar to a cayenne. Each crimson red pepper reaches up to 7 inches in length.

Tomato 'Sweetheart of the Patio' - A compact cherry tomato that's perfect for patios or hanging baskets. Its round, 1 inch fruits are exceptionally sweet and flavorful.

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!

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@cottagefarmsdirect.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**

PATIO PRODUCE COLLECTION



*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

PATIO PRODUCE COLLECTION

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 due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around each plant and place them near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep them well-watered in their pots until permanently planted. Once planted, they begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

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

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.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

Please note: Tomatoes are a rare exception where planting deeply is actually beneficial. Plant the 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. Refill the hole or trench with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	<p>Adequate and consistent watering is essential for your plants, especially tomatoes. Inconsistent watering or soils that do not hold water evenly can cause problems with fruit development.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
FEEDING	<p>To maximize the growth and performance of your plants, feed them with a water soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables once every 2 to 3 weeks during the growing season.</p>
HARVESTING	<p>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.</p> <p>Harvest the peppers after 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 and avoid damaging the plant. After harvesting, fresh peppers can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 10 days. Do not consume any other part of the plant.</p> <p>Eggplants are ready to be harvested when they are deep purple with shiny, unwrinkled skin. Cut the stems with hand pruners or a sharp knife, taking care to avoid bruising the fruit. Fresh eggplants can be stored in the refrigerator for several days before using. As with other garden vegetables, do not consume any other part of the plant.</p>

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

MULCHING	<p>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.</p>
WINTERIZING	<p>These plants 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. Plants in containers should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights. The plants should be discarded when they have finished producing at the end of the season.</p>

TIPS FROM MASTER GARDENERS

COMMON TOMATO PROBLEMS AND REMEDIES

Blossom End Rot: This condition causes a leathery depression to form on the blossom side of developing fruit. Blossom end rot can be caused by a calcium deficiency in the soil or a moisture shortage while fruit is forming. To prevent this condition, have your soil tested and amend it as needed, provide sufficient irrigation, use mulch to preserve soil moisture, and protect your plants from drying winds.

Catfacing: Catfacing is signified by irregular scarring, puckering and deformation toward the top of the fruit. It is caused by temperature fluctuations or incomplete pollination at flowering time. Catfacing is only cosmetic, and will correct itself as conditions improve.

Cracking: Cracking occurs when soil moisture fluctuates as fruit is developing. Due to a heavy rainstorm or watering after a period of drought, the skin can respond to the sudden influx of moisture by cracking or splitting. Maintain a regular watering schedule and use mulch to help prevent cracking. Fruits that have begun to crack are still edible, but should be picked and used right away.

Flower Drop / No Fruit: This problem can occur during periods of unusually high daytime or low nighttime temperatures, as well as hot, drying winds. Under these conditions, flowers may drop before developing into fruit. Blossom set sprays help to reduce spring blossom drop, but have little effect during high temperatures. This problem typically disappears as weather conditions improve.