



Caring for Blue Tag Plants for Xeric Gardens

Thank you for your purchase and for helping to conserve natural resources by growing an extremely drought tolerant species that is ideal for dry, or xeric, gardens. There are some important things you need to know about this plant.

This is one of what we refer to as our "blue tag" plants, which are exceptionally waterwise. Some Salvias and companion plants require little watering once established. To identify a xeric plant, we add a blue marker to its pot that says, "Warning: This plant is very sensitive to overwatering. Do not water if the soil is moist."

Most of our blue tag plants can be challenging to grow in small pots, which are a necessity for shipping. They are also challenging to nurture in gardens unless planted in areas with growing conditions approximating their native environments. However, we grow them for sale, because we highly value their beauty, ability to withstand tough environments and usefulness to pollinators. Most of these plants are impossible to find at the majority of nurseries.

Native Environments

The native lands of our blue tag plants include:

- California
- The American Southwest
- Texas
- The Canary Islands off the east coast of Africa
- Israel and other Middle Eastern countries
- Mediterranean lands, such as Crete, and
- Countries of the Southern European steppe lands, such as Turkey.

Blue Tag Care Tips

To aid your success in nurturing this blue tag plant, here are some tips for providing proper care from the moment it arrives on your doorstep.

[Care Instructions](#). Before your order arrives, you should receive our detailed instruction sheet titled [Unpacking, Planting and Unconditional Satisfaction](#). Please read it closely, because it covers matters such as:

- Unpacking and inspecting your shipment as soon as possible
- Properly acclimatizing plants before planting
- Selecting an appropriate planting location
- Amending the soil but limiting nitrogen
- Digging the right size of hole as well as settling the plant in correctly and
- Watering carefully.

Condition Upon Arrival. Blue tag plants seem to be particularly susceptible to suffering from confinement in a box, let alone small pots. You may see some mold, spots on leaves or a bit of withered foliage when they arrive. Although not appear cosmetically perfect upon receipt, they will perk up with proper care. This may take a number of days, because plants go into what might be called temporary dormancy when shipped in boxes.

Drainage and Fertilizer. When amending the soil before planting, remember that blue tag plants not only need excellent drainage but also tend to flower better in low fertility soil. You can never lose by adding organic matter, such as compost to soil, because it will improve aeration and drainage. However, when adding fertilizer, use a mix with more phosphorous than nitrogen.

Correct Watering. Don't forget that drought-tolerant plants like their soil on the dry side once established. They are accustomed to life in tough environments, such as in semi-arid chaparral or along highway embankments.

All plant roots need oxygen. Overwatering particularly smothers the roots of xeric plants and may also lead to fungal problems, especially during warm weather.

Also, the less frequently you water, the deeper a drought-tolerant plant's roots will grow and the more stable its root system will become. But it's a good idea to gently spray dust off the plant's foliage perhaps once a week.

Guarantee of Satisfaction

We want to make it easy for you to be responsible in caring for the plants you order from us, so we offer a lot of information with each shipment.

We also want to nurture you as our customer, which is why we provide our [money-back guarantee](#). If anything in your order arrives in less than excellent condition, we will refund your money or provide a credit for future purchases.

More questions? Please [feel free to contact us](#), and we will respond promptly.