



Customer Service Phone: 707-877-1717

Unpacking, Planting and Unconditional Satisfaction

Thank you for your order. We deeply value your business and the quality of our plants. Please keep this in mind as you unpack your order and check the contents, because it is our business not only to make the world a more beautiful place but also to satisfy customers.

Providing Excellence

FBTS ships only well-rooted, healthy stock in containers. The container size for each plant is listed on the plant's description page in our online catalog. Sometimes it is necessary to cut back or fold over a plant to facilitate shipping. Don't worry. We are loving gardeners and will do an excellent job of trimming and packing. We are also very careful not to ship pests or weeds.

Please let us know immediately, via email or telephone, if your order arrives in less than excellent condition.

After You Open the Box

Boxed, shipped plants need to be unpacked on arrival. Here are some important things to know:

Removing Packing Materials. Each potted plant is wrapped in 1 to 3 large sheets of print-free, recycled newsprint. Foam packing peanuts surround and separate the pots. Gently remove the newsprint from each pot and set it aside for composting or recycling.

Observing the Plants. Although it is possible that some minor damage to foliage or breakage of stems may occur in transit, the strong root systems help the plants to recover while hardening off and when planted. Take a good look at the root balls for healthy, abundant roots before planting.

Preparation for Planting

Here are some steps to take to get ready for planting:

Hardening Off and Watering. Remember that after you unwrap the individual pots, it is important to set your plants outside in a sheltered area offering dappled shade. Even the toughest perennials should not

be placed in full sun for at least three days. Plant metabolism shuts down during shipping, so Salvias and other perennials need to wake up gently to acclimatize. This is called hardening off. Following the days of dappled shade, give the plants a few more days of mixed direct sunshine and shade before planting in permanent locations. Doublecheck each plant's description in our catalog for individual sunlight and shade requirements when planting.

While hardening off, never let the plants dry out. If they are dry when you receive them, be sure to water them thoroughly immediately. After that, err on the side of moderation, because overwatering can drown perennial roots. Keep the soil lightly moist and look for signs of new growth. That means a plant is regaining its metabolic balance.

Planting

Most of our plants aren't too fussy, but digging and enriching soil aids growth.

Preparing the Soil. Plant roots spread more easily in loose, spaded soil containing organic matter for enrichment and aeration. It is also a good idea to add fertilizer to a landscape bed before planting. Carefully dig in fertilizer at least a few days before planting, so it can mellow out and not burn plant roots.

To encourage blossoming of Salvias, don't add lots of nitrogen, which tends to limit flowers and increase shoot and foliage development. Select an N/P/K (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) mix in which there is a higher percentage of potassium than nitrogen. Potassium encourages flowering, whereas phosphorous boosts root growth.

Getting the Hole Ready. For a herbaceous Salvia, dig a hole that is as deep as the root ball. The crown of the herbaceous Salvia should be level with the top of the garden soil. For a woody Salvia, dig the hole 2 inches deeper than the height of the root ball. This allows additional roots to grow out of the stems. For both kinds of Salvias, make the diameter of the hole about 1/3 larger than the root ball.

Removing Plants from Pots. When ready to place a plant in its hole, gently squeeze its packing pot, tap the bottom to loosen the root ball and tip the pot so the plant can slide out. Never tug on the plant, because that can damage foliage and tear the root ball.

If the root ball is dense and hard, please refer to the information here: [Rootbound Salvias: Assessment & Treatment](#)

Infilling. Fill in soil around the root ball, building up the soil across the crown so that it rises about an inch above the top of the hole. Gently firm the soil in place and soak it.

In-Ground Watering and Mulching. Pat yourself on the back, because your new perennials are in the ground. As your Salvias and other perennials develop roots, remember never to let their soil get dry. Maintain a light touch with the water, but keep the soil moist. Salvias, in particular, need less water as they develop deep root systems. However, that may take a year. In the meantime, be careful not to allow the foot ball to dry out completely, as it will shrink and stay dry – even when the soil around it is moist. Please review this information: [Ask Mr Sage: What do I with a dry root ball?](#)

Chilly Zones. If you are planting in autumn and live in a cold-weather area, be careful not to water on days when extreme chill is expected. Also, placing a 2-inch layer of organic, winter mulch over newly planted perennials is wise in cold climates.

Protect from Pests. Newly planted Salvias can be damaged by slugs & snails, rodents, rabbits and even deer. Take care to protect them from these and other critters.

Questions?

Feel free to call our customer service line at 707 877-1717, or email us at sales@fbts.com