

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in-ground in zones 9 to 10. In zones 3 to 8, we recommend planting in containers so you can bring 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	12 to 36 inches tall with a similar spread.
BLOOM TIME	Early fall.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	3 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Edible. Great for containers. Excellent in teas, desserts and more.

### SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://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@cottagefarmdirect.com](mailto: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**

# STEVIA



\*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

### STEVIA

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.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

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

WATERING	<p>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.</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. 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.</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>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.</p>
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>
WEEDING	<p>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.</p>

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

PRUNING	<p>Stevia will benefit from regular pruning. Pruning encourages lateral branching, resulting in a bushy, mounded shape and prolific leaf production. Use the leaves removed when pruning to dry or make a sweet extract.</p>
USING STEVIA	<p>Stevia can be dried to add natural sweetness to your favorite drinks and dishes. Begin by cutting the desired amount of stems from the plant. Remove the leaves from the stems, then place them on a screen or net in a well-ventilated, sunny area. Alternately, tie the leaves in bunches and hang them in a sunny place. The leaves should be dry within 8 to 12 hours. Once the leaves are completely dry, crush them and store them in an airtight container. Stevia leaves may also be dried in a food dehydrator on low heat. Dried stevia is excellent for adding sweetness to drinks, sauces and more.</p> <p>Stevia may be steeped in water to create a sweet extract. Chop one-half cup of fresh stevia leaves, then pour one cup of warm (not boiling) water over them. Allow the leaves to steep overnight, then strain and refrigerate the liquid for up to two weeks. Use the extract to sweeten tea, coffee and desserts.</p>
WINTERIZING	<p>Stevia can be planted in-ground and left outdoors during winter in zones 9-10. In colder zones, plant your stevia in containers and move it 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the spring when temperatures begin to rise, ease the plants into a full watering schedule and move them back outdoors for the summer.</p>