

# *How to Care for a* Imperial Blue Cape Plumbago Shrub

## Plumbago auriculata 'Imperial Blue

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6 hrs/day)

This shrub will grow to be 6-10 ft. tall; Space 6 ft. away from other plants or structures

Thrives in any garden soil, except those that are overly rich.

Versatile Plant for:

Massed as a ground cover shrub. Borders, hedges. Near the home foundation. In a patio pot.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 9,10,11

### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

### **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 6" tall by 12" wide. To plant in a container, select a pretty pot that is at least 12" in diameter.

### **PLANTING:**

Place plant in a hole that is at least twice as wide as the pot, approximately 6 in. deep by 12" wide, and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

Water well regularly, in the form of 1" of rainfall or irrigation per week (equivalent to a 5-gallon bucket full), often more frequently in extremely warm areas or if in a pot. Established plants need watering only during dry spells

If desired, give a light feeding of fertilizer in spring.

Prune in late winter to keep shrub neat & tidy and to prevent it from rambling extensively.