



We hope you enjoy your new plants!

## *How to Care for a* BLUE BUTTERFLY BUSH PLANT (Clerodendrum) *Rothea myricoides* 'Ugandense

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Full Sun (6+ hrs/day) to Part Sun (4-6 hrs/day)

This plant grows 4 ft tall in a container, 6-10 ft tall in ground. Space 2-3 ft. apart.

Tolerates a wide range of well-drained, average garden soils.

USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 9-10 :::: Plant directly into the ground only in Zones 9 and 10; otherwise, either grow in a container and move to a sunny, frost free location to overwinter, or simply treat it as an annual and replace it the following spring with a whole new plant.

**PLANT PREP:** Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant "breathe". Remove 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 10" deep by 24" wide. To plant in a container, select a pretty pot that is at least 12" in diameter.

**PLANTING:** Place plant in hole 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. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4" away from its trunk.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

Water on regular basis, and soil should dry out a bit between waterings. Do not overwater where soil becomes continually wet or waterlogged.

In northern climates where the plant is in a pot, bring inside to a sunny, frost free area before temperatures fall below 65 deg F.

Fertilize in spring and summer with an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6" away from its stem.

Trim as needed only after flowering to avoid removing flower buds.