

How to Care for a BUTTERFLY BUSH Shrub

(‘Buzz Ivory, ‘Buzz Midnight, ‘Buzz Sky Blue)

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun => 6 hours per day

This shrub will grow larger; space 48 in. away from other plants or structures

Easy to grow in almost any soil, provide regular water during first growing season.

Focal Point/Color Accent: Anywhere the blooms will be easily enjoyed!

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.

PLANTING:

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold it in place while more soil mixture is added, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the plant 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 main trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Remove faded flower heads to encourage formation of additional blooms. Fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the shrub at least 6” away from its stem.

Water regularly throughout first year, usually 1 in. per week in the form of rainfall or artificial irrigation. 1 in. = a 5-gal bucket full

Prune back hard to a 6-8” height in very early spring before growth begins by shaping as desired and cutting out any dead or damaged canes first by making a 45-degree cut above a growth node or bud.