

How to Care for a CHINESE ASTILBE Perennial

Astilbe chinensis ‘Vision in Pink,’ ‘Vision in Red’

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Part Shade (4-6 hrs/day) or Full Shade (more than 6 hrs/day)

This plant will grow larger: In ideal conditions, typically reaches 12-18” tall by 12-18” wide.

Easy to grow in average, uniformly moist, well drained soils; prefers moist, organically rich soil that never dries out completely.

Garden Uses: Group in shade gardens, woodland gardens, cottage gardens, general shaded areas.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 4,5,6,7,8

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 plant will be approximately 12” 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. If desired, have someone 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.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water regularly to ensure adequate soil moisture and to help foliage remain attractive throughout the season.

If desired, remove spent flower spikes to improve plant’s appearance.

If desired, in Spring, apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose, slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6” away from its stem.

Divide when overcrowding occurs, usually every 3-4 years.