



Fothergilla × *intermedia* ‘Alice’
Legend of the Fall® fothergilla
Zones 5-9

Proven Winner’s Legend of the Fall® fothergilla is truly a four-season shrub that can fit into almost any residential landscape. Exquisite bottlebrush inflorescences emerge in April to May before leaves, lasting up to 4 weeks. Flowers are white, honey-scented, and a welcome sight and scent in early spring. Summer foliage is leathery and an attractive dark green. True to its trademark name, autumn brings its full glory with vibrant shades of yellow, orange, and red enveloping this compact shrub. With a dense rounded outline, it is even pleasing in winter after foliage abscises. Legend of the Fall® fothergilla is exceptionally shade tolerant, but performs best in full sun to part shade in moist to average soil. Reaching a height and spread of 4-5 feet, it can be sited under trees or incorporated into a garden with other shrubs and herbaceous plants. The cultivar (‘Alice’) was originally selected in 2004 by Bernard McGowan (Montague, MA) from a group of 2001, open-pollinated seedlings.

Fothergilla × *intermedia* is a hybrid of two species, *F. gardenii* (dwarf fothergilla) and *F. major* (mountain fothergilla). Dwarf fothergilla is suckering and low growing, attaining a height of just 2-3 feet. It is indigenous to the southeast coast of the United States and prefers wet savannas and peat bogs. Conversely, mountain fothergilla is a large shrub growing to 20 feet in height found on the bluffs and woodlands of the southern Appalachian Mountains. The hybrid is certainly “intermediate” between these two species in terms of its height, leaf, flower size, and site adaptability. When many new *F. gardenii* cultivars began surfacing in the nursery trade in the 1980s, their differences from the species were noted. In 2007, morphological and chromosomal studies at North Carolina State University showed these plants had been selected from open pollinated seed of dwarf and mountain fothergilla, and a hybrid was named.

Planting Instructions

Carefully unpack your plant and choose a location that is partially shaded and protected from foot traffic and the potential for accidental breakage until you are ready to plant. Check it for watering needs daily, as containerized plants dry out quickly.

Plant in well-drained soil at the correct depth. The top of the root system should be level with the soil surface. The depth of the hole should accommodate the height of the roots and be left undisturbed to prevent settling, while the width of the hole should be at least two times the width of the root ball. This loosened soil will allow new roots to grow more quickly. After planting, water your shrub well and apply a 1” layer of mulch over the area, but do not allow mulch to contact the stem to reduce the likelihood of rot. Water again after mulching and continue to water (but not saturate) until established.