

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Thanks for choosing your plant material from Gardenwerks! To help you have a successful landscape experience we suggest the following when planting.



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Water

Thoroughly soak planting hole immediately after planting. If the plant is not on a drip irrigation system, place a hose near the root ball and slowly soak. This is better than a quick, high-pressured, watering. For trees, soak for 30 minutes to an hour depending on soil type and weather. Fast draining soils and hot, windy days require more water. Clay soils hold more moisture and for a longer period of time. The goal is to soak the ground deep, including the soil next to the root ball. Start a regular watering schedule, especially for the first year or two to help establish a healthy root system.

Lawn irrigation may not provide enough water for trees.

Staking

Larger trees should be staked for at least one year. Most often the root ball is small and will roll in the hole until roots are established. Use two stakes, placing one on either side of the plant parallel to the typical wind pattern (usually west to east). Tie off the tree using tree tape or arbor tie. **DO NOT** use wire or rope.

Prior to Planting

If you are not planting immediately, water plants thoroughly every day and keep them out of the wind and direct sunlight. Ball and burlap plants should be mulched in. Handle plants gently and always lift or carry plants by the pot or root ball.

Location

Select the proper location for the plant to ensure a healthy, happy plant (and gardener!). Consider its mature size, if it drops fruit, and growing requirements such as sunlight, water and soil conditions.

Soil

Mix soil from the hole with compost, a typical ratio is 2-3 parts soil to 1 part compost. Remove rocks and debris and use this mix to backfill around the root ball.

Lightly tamp to remove air pockets but avoid over compacting the soil. (Amend soil with coarse sand for Xeric plants)

After Planting Care

See our ***Care of New Plantings*** brochure for more information.

Depth-Planting depth is critical. Plant only as deep as the existing soil level at the top of the root ball or potted plant. DO NOT change this soil level on the plant! If you have poor drainage or are adding a layer of compost or mulch around the base of the plant, planting slightly higher than existing grade by 1-2" is recommended. It is far better to err on the shallow side than on the deep side when digging a hole. When planting a tree you should see a visible flare at the base of the trunk.

Width-Dig a hole at least twice as wide as the root ball, but the wider the better. Prevent grass from growing against the trunk of a tree by establishing a tree ring, which is a mulched area at the base of a tree. Two to three feet from the trunk in a lawn area is best.

Ball and Burlap-Do not remove the wire cage. Make slices into the root ball in many places between the wire. After the plant is placed into the hole and the level is correct, cut all ties from around the trunk and remove. Fold down any flaps that form the wire basket along the sides. Cut the burlap away from the top part of the root ball. You may cut the top two rows of wire if desired.

Potted Plants-Lay pot on its side and gently squish the pot. Remove plant by holding onto the center stem and lifting. Roughen up the edge of the exposed root ball with your hand. If the plant roots seem extremely dense and matted, score around the root ball with a knife or pruners. Four cuts vertically up the root ball is generally sufficient.

Placement-Position the plant in the center of the hole (AT CORRECT HEIGHT) and set the plant by backfilling a small amount of soil around the base of the root ball. If the plant is ball and burlap, go ahead and cut the ties from around the trunk at this time.

