

Planting Directions & Care

Handling Plants

Always handle plants by the container or root ball, not by the plant itself. Bare root plants should be handled by the main stem. Keep plants in shaded areas and well-watered until planted.

Site Preparation and Planting

The area to be planted should be examined for soil condition, which may be amended by adding good topsoil, peat moss, manure or other soil conditioners. In very sandy soils, high ratios of peat moss are recommended (up to 50%). In clay soils, the soil should be improved with additional drainage and bark amendments. Check with your local garden center staff for advice specific to your garden's needs.

It is important to provide a loose, enriched soil for the new roots to grow into. Dig your holes twice the width of the roots, root ball, or container and 4" (10cm) deeper. Backfill with approximately 5-6" (12-15cm) of prepared soil and tamp down. Place the plant in the hole and 'face' in the desired direction for the best appearance. Make sure the soil line (top of container or soil ball) is even or slightly above the surrounding level. Backfill the hole and tamp down the soil to reduce settling and to eliminate air pockets. Leave a saucer-like depression for water retention. **Water thoroughly**, several times, until the soil is completely soaked. **Water again** the following day, then again as needed. It is important to prevent the soil from drying out. You can check soil moisture with a moisture meter or by using your index finger and feeling for moisture. Water only when the soil begins to feel dry. It is better to water thoroughly once or twice a week than sprinkling every day. Water at the base of the plant only.

Planting Directions

Traditional Plastic Container

For easy removal of the container, the soil should be moist. Some containers may need light tapping or cutting of the sidewall. If the roots are crowded, gently rake out the roots using your hands or a small hand cultivator. Place the plant in the hole at the correct level. Backfill with prepared soil, tamp down and water thoroughly.

Coir or Fiber Container

DO NOT REMOVE THE POT! For coir pots, cut off the top rim of the pot to make it level with the soil inside the pot. Place the potted plant into your prepared hole and backfill with soil, ensuring the coco fibers are completely covered in soil. If any of the pot rim is left above soil level, this will create a wicked effect and will dry out your plant. Water thoroughly. Within a few weeks the roots should break through the pot into the native soil and the pot will break down, becoming one with the native soil around it. For fiber pots, make slits down the side of the fiber pot every few inches and cut off the top rim. Place the potted plant into your prepared hole and backfill. Water thoroughly. The slits in the fiber will allow the roots to grow through the pot and into the native soil.

Planting Directions Continued...

Balled and Burlap or Wire Basket

Place the plant in the hole at the proper depth and back fill approximately half of the depth of the hole. Cut away the strings, untie the burlap, and lay open or cut away. If the soil ball is in a wire basket, use wire cutters to cut away the top ring and loops. Avoid disturbing the root ball. Backfill around the ball, tamp down the soil and water thoroughly.

Bare root

Remove any packaging and packing materials. Remove any broken roots with a sharp pruning shear. Prune back excessive coarse roots. Do not remove any fibrous roots. Place the plant into a tub of water making sure all the roots are submerged. Dig the hole or trench large enough to accommodate the plant's root system and fill the bottom with good topsoil or a blended mix of soil. Place the plant in the hole or trench and backfill with good soil. Make sure to plant at the same level as it was in the nursery, look for the soil marks on the stem.

Staking Larger Trees and Conifers

Most larger trees and conifers will require staking after transplanting. Using solid stakes, drive into the ground about two feet (60cm) away from the tree, into the original soil. Not the planting hole. Using proper tree ties or a protective material around the bark, tie the tree to the stake. Check frequently for any abrasions and adjust if necessary. Do not allow the ties to damage or grow into the bark. Remove stakes when the tree is established.

Fertilizing New Plants

After your plants are planted and watered, you can water in some water-soluble fertilizer in a plant starter formulation. As an alternative, you may also lightly rake in a small amount of granular fertilizer in a low nitrogen formulation. Consult the staff at your favourite garden center for more information on which formulations will best suit your needs.