



Your Successful Guide to Planting

Planting Trees & Shrubs

Before You Plant

Always plant in well-drained soil. To test for soil drainage, dig a hole for your new plant and fill it with water. If the water doesn't drain in 12 hours, the soil in that area will need to be amended dramatically to help with drainage.

The Plant

Your tree or shrub will come in one of two forms: balled & burlapped (B&B) or containerized. If the soil is moist and kept sufficiently watered, planting can be done anytime the soil is not frozen. If possible, plant your tree or shrub as soon as you get it home. Otherwise, it may dry out and become injured. If you can't plant it immediately, place it in a shady and/or sheltered outdoor location. Keep the soil moist, but not wet, until planted.

The Planting Hole

To plant a tree, dig a hole 1 ½ times the width of the root ball, and match the depth of the root ball. The top of the root ball should be level with the surface of the ground. Most soils in our area are clay-based and will benefit if amended with organic material. Products such as **Master Nursery's Bumper Crop Organic Soil Builder** contain beneficial nutrients for your planting area. Clay/heavy soils benefit by amending with **Jonathan Green's 'Love Your Soil'**, **Espoma's Soil Perfector**, or **Gypsum**.

Now that the area is prepared, place the plant into the hole. For balled & burlapped plants: **Do Not** remove any rope or string until the tree is at the proper depth and it is positioned in the desired direction. Partially backfill the hole with amended soil, then remove twine from the top half of plant. Fold down the top half of the basket and the top half of burlap. Do not reposition the tree after twine is removed! Do not attempt to remove the burlap from under the plant – this could damage the root ball. Continue filling the hole with amended soil until the soil level is even with the existing ground. Use excess soil to build a ring 6-10" from the outside of the hole. Water can collect in the saucer and move slowly down in the root zone of the plant, as well as minimize run off. For containerized plants, remove them from their pot, loosen the sides of the root ball slightly, and follow the same depth and backfill instructions. Using a transplanting solution such as **Rootmaster** and **Bumper Crop Starter Food** will help the newly planted tree or shrub to grow new roots.

Water Your New Plant

Most plant deaths are a result of improper watering. The roots of newly planted plants dry out faster than the soil around them. A newly planted tree or shrub will probably need to be watered one or two times a week, depending on weather conditions. You may need to increase the frequency in times of extreme heat or drought. DO NOT solely rely on rain as a means of watering new plants. During extensive periods of rain, you may need to water less. Take caution not to overwater as being constantly saturated can be detrimental to your plant and result in its death. Plants can wilt from excess water, not

just from drought! When watering, use a slow, deep-watering method to ensure the entire root system is reached. Water should be released at a slow pace, allowing for deeper penetration of the soil. You should monitor a plant's water needs for the first two growing seasons. Remember that most plants are not forgiving, and that it only takes one time for a plant to dry out and die. Thus, be vigilant and make appropriate plans if you will not be able to water your plant for a length of time.

Mulching Your New Plant

Mulch serves a few purposes. It prevents moisture loss, incorporates organic matter into your soils, and adds a pleasing look to planting beds. Apply mulch at a depth of no more than 3", and avoid mulching close to the base of the plant, as this can promote disease or pest injury.

Fertilizing

We recommend **Espoma Holly-Tone** or **Tree-Tone** applications in the spring and fall of each year. For selecting the correct fertilizer, please ask one of our professionals for help!

Winter Protection

Apply **Wilt-Pruf** (an anti-transpirant) to all broadleaf evergreens. Apply in November and reapply in February, adhering to label directions. This will protect your investment from drying winter winds.

Animal, Insect & Disease Control

We carry many different remedies to prevent damage caused by pests and unwanted animals. We recommend **Liquid Fence**, **Deer Stopper** or **Shake Away** to keep small critters and deer from damaging your plants. For long-lasting systemic insect and disease control, we recommend **Bonide 12 Months Tree and Shrub Systemic Control** (for trees & shrubs) or **Bayer All-In-One Rose and Flower Care** (for roses & some perennials). Simply follow application directions according to the label.

Planting Perennials & Annuals

Most perennials and annuals like a well-drained soil rich with organic matter. Native soils in urban landscapes for most perennials and annuals should be amended with **Master Nursery's Organic Bumper Crop**. Once the soil has been prepared, place your plants around the planting area while still in their pots. Make sure you have taken into consideration the mature size of the plant, as well as proper sun or shade requirements. Determine an approximate location for the planting then dig the hole in the amended soil, wide enough and deep enough to accommodate the plant. Water the plants thoroughly, and remove them from their pots by inverting them and supporting the root ball. After lightly loosening the sides of the root ball, place your plant into the hole then backfill to ground level. Water the plant thoroughly to ensure the soil fills in completely around the roots, eliminating large air pockets. To help initiate new root growth, we recommend **Rootmaster** when planting. ~~This will help initiate new root growth.~~ Monitor your perennials and annuals, and water as needed. Water slowly to attain deep-water penetration, which encourages widespread root development and further prevents drying out. Feed annuals with **Jack's Bud & Bloom** as directed. Add up to a 2" layer of mulch around the plant to help retain moisture. Avoid mulching too close to the base of the plant as this can promote disease or pest injury. When planting annuals in a pot, ensure your pot has drainage holes. For best results, plant with **Bumper Crop Gardener's Gold Potting Soil**.

Flagg’s Garden Center Plant Guarantee

Trees and shrubs purchased at full price at Flagg’s Garden Center are guaranteed starting from the date of purchase, provided the plant has been properly planted and cared for per our planting guide. Replacements are made based on the purchase price and will only be replaced once. Warranty excludes any discounted trees or shrubs. The warranty does not cover roses, perennials, annuals, houseplants, sod, flowering Dogwoods, Southern Magnolias, Camellias, Seed, Groundcover or plants remaining in or transplanted to a container. If a tree or shrub installed by Flagg’s needs to be replaced, up to 100% of the original purchase price will be credited toward a replacement plant if it dies within one year. If a tree or shrub installed by the customer needs replacement within 60 days of purchase, up to 100% of the original purchase price will be applied to a replacement plant. Up to 50% of the original purchase price will be credited on a replacement tree or shrub after 60 days but within a year of purchase date. For example:

Installed by Flagg’s & dies within 1 year of purchase date <u>or</u> Installed by customer & dies within 60 days of purchase date		
Original Purchase Price	Replacement Plant Price	Credit Amount Applied
\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
\$100.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Installed by customer & dies after 60 days but within 1 year from purchase date		
Original Purchase Price	Replacement Plant Price	Credit Amount Applied
\$100.00	\$100.00	\$50.00
\$100.00	\$200.00	\$50.00
\$100.00	\$50.00	\$25.00

****Credit amounts can only be applied to replacement trees or shrubs.***

If at any point you are concerned that your plant is showing signs of poor health, please contact us. There is often a simple solution that can prevent the loss of your plant.