

Planting Instructions

Handling Plants

Plants are living and *do* require hands-on attention! Once you purchase your plants, be sure to get them home as soon as possible. If the plants need to be in your car for a while be sure to open a window, especially on warm days. If the plants have not been recently watered at the nursery, water them as soon as you get them home. If you are not planting them right away, keep them in a shady place and check them daily for watering. Water thoroughly until water comes out of the bottom of the pot. Check soil for moisture before watering again (a general rule of thumb is if you stick your pointer finger in the soil and it is dry to a 1" depth, the plant needs to be watered). When purchasing or planting your plants, do not pick plants up by the stem (whether in or out of a pot) as this may damage the plant and/or root structure.

Soil Amendments

We recommend using peat moss and Nutripack fertilizer when planting your plants. Depending on the size of your plant, it may require more than one Nutripack fertilizer (see Fertilization below for quantities). A nursery employee can guide you as to the quantity of packs needed per plant. When you dig the hole, fill 1/3 to 2/3 of the hole with peat moss and mix with the native soil. This is the soil you will use to fill the void space of the hole once the new plant is in place. Once the plant is out of the pot, loosen plant roots by massaging them gently with your fingers. If a pot happens to be root-bound, some of the roots may need to be cut in order to make sure the roots are not in a spiral following the pot.

Digging Proper Holes

Potted plants require a hole to be dug the same depth as the plant in the pot and twice as wide as the pot. If possible, it is preferable to dig the hole when the ground is dry and not soaking wet. If you dig holes when the ground is too wet, you will create a 'barrier' in the soil wall of the hole. The soil should be damp or dry, not saturated.

Removing Pots

To remove a plant from its pot, tip the plant on its side on the ground and slide the pot off. If the pot does not easily loosen, do not pull the plant by the stem(s), and use a knife or box cutter to cut down the side of the pot to slide the plant out. Once the plant is out of the pot, put the plant into the dug hole and use amended soil to fill the void. Gently push down or pat on the soil of the new plant to ensure it is in place and to help with any slight settling. The crown of the plant should be either at ground level adjacent to the hole or slightly higher. Never plant a crown of a plant below the adjacent ground level as this will drown the plant and it will not survive.

Fertilization

Once the plant is in place in the hole, set the Nutripack(s) to the side of the plant. Space them evenly around the plant if more than one is required. Use 1 Nutripack for all potted perennials, small shrubs and vines. Use 2-3 Nutripacks for all large potted shrubs and trees. Please ask the nursery staff for recommendations on Nutripack quantities for all B&B trees and evergreens.

Mulching

Spread your mulch around the plant after it is planted and the hole is filled with amended soil. Be sure to keep the mulch from touching the stems of the plant, generally keep it pulled away from the stems by about 1" to avoid suffocating the crown of the plant. Spread your mulch to a maximum 3" depth for all trees and shrubs. The benefit of using mulch is to retain soil moisture and, to an extent, mulch helps to control weeds.

Staking or When Not To

If you are planting in a very windy area, you should consider staking. We recommend to use the duckbill system which consists of cables with underground anchors. A nursery staff member can help explain how these work and how they should be installed. The roots of your plant will develop more strength with movement due to wind if you do not stake.