

# How to Plant Nursery Stock

The width of the planting hole should be at least 2 or 3 times the diameter of the plant's root ball. Water all container and B&B plants thoroughly prior to planting. Cut and remove all twine, cords, wire or strapping material, especially around the trunk or stems. Also remove all labels attached with wire or nylon twine that can eventually hurt the stem's tissue.

## **For Balled and Burlapped Plants, read here:**

Roots matted at the bottom or circling around the root ball should be cut and removed. Disturb the root ball of B&B plants as little as possible. Slowly lower the root ball into the planting hole to prevent breaking or cracking of the soil of the B&B plants. After placing the plant in the hole, the burlap around the trunk of the B&B plants should be loosened, trimmed and rolled down the sides of the soil ball. No burlap should be exposed above the soil surface in order to prevent wicking and drying which interferes with the plants growth.

New root growth can be enhanced by adding some form of organic matter such as peat moss, Garden Magic Composted Manure, or Sweet Peet. Replace approximately one third to one half of the soil being used to fill the planting hole with the organic matter. Mix the soil amendments thoroughly with the topsoil. Work the mixture gently around the root system. Heavy packing is not necessary and may be harmful.

## **For Nursery Stock in Plastic Pots, read here:**

When you take the plastic pot off the root ball, break up the root ball with a garden knife. Make an X on the bottom of the root ball and on all 4 sides. Slowly lower the root ball into the planting hole. Do not be afraid to break up the root system— it is healthy for the plant.

New root growth can be enhanced by adding some form of organic matter such as peat moss, Garden Magic Compost and Manure, or Sweet Peet. Replace approximately one third to one half of the soil being used to fill the planting hole with the organic matter. Mix the soil amendments thoroughly with the topsoil. Work the mixture gently around the root system. Heavy packing is not necessary and may be harmful.

## **Watering your New Plant**

After planting, water thoroughly, at least 2 to 3 times in a 60 minute period to make certain the entire growing mix is moistened. At each watering, wet the soil thoroughly to reach the bottom of the root ball. If the temperature is high or the soil is very dry, apply more than one inch per week. Be cautious not to over water or the amount of oxygen in the soil will be lowered to a level that will suffocate the roots. Apply mulch around the newly plants to conserve moisture in the summer, reduce weed growth and stabilize soil temperature. Never allow the mulch to exceed 3 inches in depth and make sure it tapers off near the plant trunk.

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1. **Dig the planting hole.** Dig a hole 2 to 3 times the width and the same depth as the root ball. If you are planting in a poor draining area, make the depth 1 inch shallower than the root ball.
2. **Amend the backfill soil.** Add approximately 1/3 to 1/2 organic matter such as Sweet Peet, Garden Magic Composted Manure or peat moss.
3. **Prepare the shrub.** Water thoroughly. If potted, remove from the pot. If the plant doesn't come out easily, don't be afraid to cut the pot away. Cut or untangle roots if necessary. Disturb root ball of balled and burlapped plant as little as possible. Set shrub upright in hole checking that the planting depth is correct. For balled and burlapped, remove any wire or nylon binding around the root ball and trunk. Roll burlap down so that none is showing above soil the surface.
4. **Fill hole and build a basin.** Fill hole with amended soil and firm lightly. Build a basin around the plant so that the water drains away from the stem and concentrates near the edge of the root ball. Water thoroughly.