

planting guide

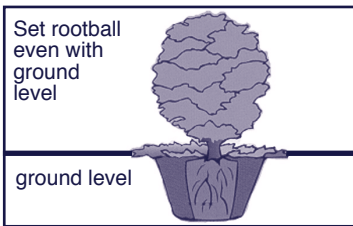
SOIL PREPARATION

All types of plants will grow better when given the proper soil conditions. If your conditions are not ideal, you'll want to take the extra steps to make your soil nice and loose over as large of an area as possible. The addition of Sphagnum Peat will help both sandy and clay soils. In sandy soils, it will help hold more water and in clay soils, there will be less compaction and your soil will be easier to use.

Spread 2-3" of **Sphagnum Peat** over the planting area and thoroughly dig in or rototill to a minimum depth of at least 6-8". Rake the soil level and remove any large clumps.

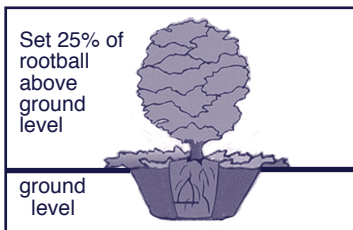
For Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Broadleaf Evergreens and other acid-loving plants, spread a 2-3" layer of **Pine Bark Mulch** over the planting area and dig in or rototill one more time.

Once these preparations have been made, begin the planting process by following these instructions.



DIGGING THE HOLE

GOOD SOIL
In well drained or loose soils, dig the hole twice the width of the rootball and as deep, or slightly shallower.



POOR SOIL
In poorly drained or hard, compacted soils, dig the hole three times the width of the rootball and 75% as deep.

WATER

Thoroughly water the soil within all rootballs/containers **BEFORE** planting. It is often difficult to sufficiently moisten a dry rootball once it is placed in the ground.

DIFFERENT CONTAINERS

PLASTIC CONTAINER PLANTS OR PACKS

Remove plastic pot. If roots are firmly packed or encircling the rootball, gently loosen them by breaking apart with your fingertips or by making several shallow vertical cuts, then loosening further with your fingers.

BALLED & BURLAPPED PLANTS

Trees and shrubs that have their rootballs covered by brown or green burlap should be handled gently by the rootball. Do not cut or remove any burlap, ropes or wire cages until the plant has been placed in the hole and has been properly positioned.

Once the soil has been placed around the plant, you **MUST** cut away all ropes and pull back any burlap that encircles the stem. (All of the burlap can be then left in the ground.) Rootballs with wire cage supports should have the upper 6-10" removed with either wire cutters or by bending the wire back and forth repeatedly until it breaks. (The bottom of the wire cage should remain in the hole.)

FILLING THE HOLE

Break up the soil that has been removed from the hole so that it is loose and crumbly. Prepare a backfill mix of 1 part sphagnum peat to 3 parts of existing soil. Thoroughly mix the peat and soil together and begin filling the hole around the rootball, packing lightly as you go. Once the hole is partially filled, you'll want to pull back the burlap, ropes or wire cages at this time (as described above).

Then, apply a liberal amount of water mixed with **Root 'n' Grow Root Stimulator**. Allow the solution to soak in before filling the hole with remaining soil. Next, construct a small rim of soil just beyond the outer edge of the rootball to collect water and direct it down to the roots when watering by hand.

MULCHING

For best results, apply organic mulches such as shredded bark, bark chips, woodchips or pine straw at the specified depth around these plantings:

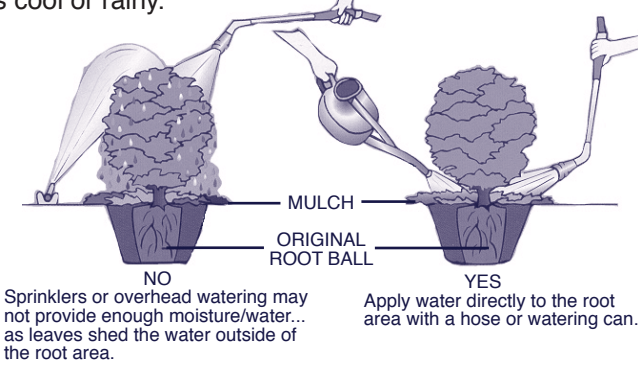
- 3 INCHES DEEP around trees, shrubs and evergreens
- 1-2 INCHES DEEP around roses and most perennials

Keep mulches 3-6" away from tree trunks, plant stems or around the base of perennials. For more information on the use of mulch materials, please refer to our **Mulching Guide** (available online).

NOTE: DO NOT mulch around **annuals** as it can inhibit their performance.

WATERING

Watering frequency can vary with plant types and weather conditions. In general, water more often during warm, windy weather and less often when it's cool or rainy.



STAKING

Most larger plants do not need to be staked after planting unless they are placed in a windy location or they are very tall. Our Garden Stores carry a complete line of staking supplies should this process be necessary. Once staked, the plant should be able to move a few inches in all directions. Remove all stakes after one year.

FERTILIZING

We recommend using **Root 'n' Grow Root Stimulator** when planting trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials. In addition, we recommend the following fertilizers during the growing season to help promote plant vigor. Always follow label directions for rate and timing information.

When planting trees, shrubs and perennials use Root 'n' Grow

Plant Category

ANNUALS
PERENNIALS
TREES & SHRUBS/EVERGREENS
BROADLEAF EVERGREENS
ROSES

Recommended On-going Fertilizers

Better Blooms™ Annual & Houseplant Fertilizer
Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food
Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food
Espoma Holly-tone
Bayer Advanced All-In-One Rose & Flower Care
or Espoma Rose-tone

**KEEP YOUR RECEIPT/INVOICE
TO INSURE WARRANTY REQUIREMENTS**

OUR LIMITED WARRANTIES

We accept returns provided you have **your original receipt** and plant (alive or dead) or other items (*see conditions below*).

A valid home phone number and driver's license is required with all returns.

OUTDOOR TREES & SHRUBS

1 YEAR ◆

PERENNIALS & ROSES

1 YEAR ◆

INDOOR FOLIAGE HOUSEPLANTS

30 DAYS

ANNUALS/INDOOR FLOWERING PLANTS

30 DAYS

DEFECTIVE HARD GOODS

1 YEAR

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

DEC 15 ■

◆ OR JUNE 15TH OF THE NEXT YEAR, WHICHEVER IS GREATER
■ OF THE YEAR IN WHICH THE PURCHASE WAS MADE

CONDITIONS

- **Non-saleable, planted or dead plants** are eligible for a **merchandise credit** in the amount of the purchased price.
- **Replacement plants are not warrantied. (Plants purchased using a merchandise credit).**
- **Re-saleable live plants** that have not been planted and are still in their original container are eligible for a refund using the payment method originally tendered.
- All items, including **sale items** are warrantied for **purchase price only**.
- Cash/check refunds over \$150.00 will be made with a check mailed within 7 days.
- Warranties begin on the original date of purchase.
- Warranties do not cover acts of god, frost or drought. We reserve the right to void any/all warranty coverage due to lack of watering, neglect or providing false information. We reserve the right to limit or refuse refunds.

