

WATERING TIPS (NEWLY PLANTED PLANTS)

Watering Newly Planted Plants

After planting, water your new plants thoroughly to ensure immediate moisture in the root ball and surrounding soil – do it again the next day.

Water slowly and deeply. Small root balls may take 15-30 minutes / larger up to 60 minutes.

Follow-up watering will depend on weather, soil types, size of root balls, weather and if the plant is balled and burlapped or container grown. Smaller root balls may require watering more often as well as those grown in containers. Always check before you water – pull the mulch aside and do a feel test and or probe test to check moisture levels for both the root ball and the surrounding soils.

Do not over water your new plants. One time deep soakings will not over water your plants, but watering too often and keeping the soil soaked will result in over-watering. So, as a general rule, we ask that you keep the root balls and surrounding soils evenly moist for about the first 3 weeks, then back off to watering deeply, allowing the soils to dry a bit (several days), then deep watering again. Keep checking to see how quickly it dries out. Staying too wet or too dry (same symptoms for both – wilting, browning of leaves, etc.) can be fatal to your plants.

Watering Container Grown Plants

Container grown plants generally dry out more quickly than balled and burlapped plants and the surrounding soils. So, it is extremely important that you water the immediate root ball first, and then the surrounding soils. If you don't, there is a good chance the plant will dry out and die.

For the first 3 weeks, keep the immediate root ball of container grown plants evenly moist (which may require watering every 2-4 days). After that time, you can back off to a good deep soaking once every 7 days (depending on soil types, weather, etc). This will last for the first full season.

Again, check between watering to monitor soil moisture (drying out / staying wet). The idea is to soak the root ball and surrounding soils thoroughly when you water, let it dry and breathe a bit, and soak-again.

Watering Methods

Garden Hose & Sprinkler-Letting the garden hose, stationary sprinkler or soaker hose trickle at the base of the plant is one of the most common ways to water. Again, make sure enough water has been applied to soak the root ball and surrounding soil.

For new trees we also recommend:

Tree Watering Bags=100% water absorption-Deep-water- Holds 20 gallons of water Irrigates 1" to 8" caliper trees=Reduces time spent at tree by 80%-Helps reduce transplant shock.

Ross Root Feeder-Great way to water new and existing trees/shrubs injects water directly into soil where the roots are located. Use on plantings during dry summer, fall growth and throughout the season.

PROPER PLANTING PROCEDURES

Digging the Hole

- Dig a hole that is a minimum of 6" to 8" wider than the root ball on all sides, and slightly shallower than the root ball is deep. The goal is plant the root ball slightly higher than ground level (1" to 2" for smaller plants/trees and 2" to 3" for larger).
- Lay a tarp next to where you'll be digging for easy clean-up. Remove the sod from the area, then remove the soil from hole and place it on the tarp. Amend the soil with soil conditioner such as "Pine Soil Conditioner" or bagged compost. The mixing ratio should be 1/3 conditioner to 2/3 original soil from the hole. Mix and chop together, this is your backfill for planting the new plant.
- It is very important to inspect the roots, if they are entangled and growing in a circle either massage or if too tight loosen with a knife or pruners.

Planting Balled and Burlapped Plants

- With burlap (and some cases wire basket) still on, place the plant in the hole with the root ball resting on firm ground, make sure the top of the root ball is slightly higher than ground level.
- Measure before you place in the hole and make sure the best side of the plant is facing forward and in the desired position.
- You may cut slits in the sides of the burlap and remove the burlap on the top of the root ball to help open up better water flow.
- Partially backfill just enough to hold the plant in an upright position, make sure the plant and trunk is straight and the root ball is higher, than ground level.
- If it looks good, begin backfilling with amended soil mix, chopping, and slightly tamping. Continue filling until the soil levels reach the shoulder of the root ball, but not on top.



Planting Container Grown Plants

- It is very important to inspect the roots, if they are entangled and growing in a circle. Either massage or if too tight, loosen with a knife or pruners.
- Place the root ball in the center of the hole with the top of the root ball slightly higher than ground level.
- Begin filling in around the root ball with the amended soil mixture, chopping and lightly tamping as you proceed. You may stop at the half-way-filled point and water the added backfilled soil. Continue until the soil level is to the shoulder of the root ball, but not on top of the root ball.



Mulching

- Once the plant has been properly planted, place 1" to 3" of good-quality mulch on top of the root ball and surrounding soil.
- Keep the mulch away from the trunk of the plant 4-6" back.
- Mulching the root ball with help reduce evaporation, keep the roots cooler, and maintain even moisture.



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