

PLANTING DIRECTIONS & CARE

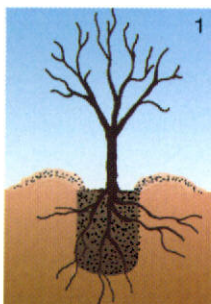
The planting hole should be no deeper than the longest roots when planting bare root plants, and no deeper than the root ball of the container or of balled plants. However, the hole diameter should be at least one or two feet wider in diameter than the root ball or spread. Save the soil from the hole to be mixed with appropriate soil amendment and return as back-fill.

Due to varying soil conditions, check with your local nursery technician to determine the appropriate soil amendment for your area and site. Soil amendments may include organic matter such as sandy-loam topsoil, compost, or composted pine bark to relieve compaction and improve drainage of heavy clay soils—or peat moss to improve the water holding capacity of sandy soils.

Root balls of plants to be planted, as well as, the planting area soil, should be moist but not exceedingly wet.

1 Figure #1 shows a balled and burlapped plant placed in hole only as deep as the root ball which rests on unexcavated earth so the topmost roots in the ball are even with or slightly above the surrounding soil level.

Back-fill the hole with the amended soil and firm as it is placed until the hole is about 2/3 - 3/4 filled. Cut and remove all strings and burlap around the main stem and from the top of the ball. Water the root ball gently as you complete back-filling and finish by grading a shallow saucer around the planting hole to hold moisture. Soak thoroughly until the water puddles slightly on soil surface.



2 Bare root plants shown in figure #2 need all dead and broken roots pruned and soaking in a tub for 4-5 hours prior to planting. Soaking longer may reduce plant survival.

Spread roots out in planting hole in natural fashion with uppermost roots just barely below soil surface. Back-fill carefully with amended soil mix while adding a small stream of water as soil is replace. This will eliminate air pockets. Finish by creating a shallow saucer atop the planting hole and water slowly until slight puddling occurs on soil surface.



3 Papier mache or pulp pots are mostly used for field potted plants which rarely have established root systems. Therefore, care should be taken to disturb the root ball as little as possible. Like balled and burlapped plants, dig the hole no deeper than the root ball but at least 1-2' wider as in figure #3.

Place the plant in the hole still in the pot. With sharp knife, slit down the sides vertically in 4-5 places and if possible without disturbing the root system, remove the pot sides. If pot sides can't be removed without the root ball disintegrating, then leave the sides but remove top edge to where none will be exposed after back-filling. To complete planting, follow instructions as in balled and burlapped planting.



4 Plants purchased in a plastic container may have a substantial amount of roots just inside the pot wall. Remove the plant from the container and loosen roots by slashing about 1" deep vertically

down the root ball with a knife. Then tease the roots out so they will immediately begin to grow into the surrounding soil as in diagram #4.

Plants from plastic containers, just as with balled and burlapped, need to be planted no deeper than the root ball, taking care to see that the uppermost roots are even with or slightly above the surrounding soil surface. Water thoroughly until puddling occurs.



An inch or two of bark or compost mulch will aid in moisture and weed control, while keeping the soil cool for optimum root growth.

WATERING

There is not a specific time table for watering in any soil type. An indication of a plant's water needs can be attained by checking for soil moisture with your index finger about 1-1/2" deep in the root zone. If soil is moist, leave it alone and check every day or two until soil begins to feel dry. Then, water thoroughly with a small stream until slight puddling occurs as you did when planting. Water again only when soil is dry to the touch 1-2" below soil surface in the root zone. Maintain this watering regimen only for the first growing season. Thereafter, when plant is fully established, watering is only necessary in times of drought.

DRAINAGE

Adequate drainage is essential for survival of most plants, either newly planted or established. Any soil which does not drain readily should be examined to determine the cause. Usually heavy dense clay is the problem. Sometimes subterranean water flow or a naturally high water table is the culprit. Normally clay soils can be conditioned and aerated by adding sufficient amounts of organic matter such as, compost, sandy-loam topsoil, or composted pine bark. Thoroughly incorporate amendment into the top 6-8" of soil. Otherwise, soils with high water table may need to be drained by installing a porous pipe or drain tile to carry off excess soil moisture. Raising the planting bed with a few inches of friable soil may be necessary in some locations to provide a porous soil condition necessary for good growth.

Water tolerant plants such as Willow, Arborvitae, Larch, Winterberry Holly or Bald Cypress, to name just a few, may also be used in poorly drained areas.

