

Watering Instructions

How to Know If Your Plants Need Water

Dig down 1"-2" underneath the mulch and feel the soil. If the soil is wet, you don't need to water. (Wet soil will stick together when squeezed.) You can also use a moisture meter to check if you need to water. When the indicator reads [1] or [2] watering is needed.

How to Water

Know your plant's moisture needs. Some plants need more water than others. Plants under trees may require more water.

- When soil feels dry water slowly and deeply. Allow the water to pool and sink in at least three times. Be sure to water out past edge of plants. Watering deeply encourages roots to grow deeper.
- If you have shredded mulch over your beds, you may need to break up the crust to get water through to the soil.
- Keep water off the leaves. This reduces diseases.
- Water in the morning, giving foliage time to dry especially if using sprinklers.

When to Water Existing Plantings

- Be sure to water if we have not had significant rain in 2 weeks. Make sure to check on plants that were installed the previous year more often, or ones that especially love water. In many cases, these plants will need a little extra attention.
- If no rain continues, water again when the soil is dry 1"-2" below the soil surface.
- Make sure water gets through mulch into the soil.
- Watering by hand is a good way to learn the needs of each plant in your garden and it uses less water. If using a sprinkler, run just long enough to equal an inch of rain. You can test how much water your system delivers by using a rain gauge.

When to Water New Plantings

Plants installed this year have higher water needs because their root systems have not grown much further than the original pot area.

- **First Day:** Water slowly and deeply after planting. Allow the water to pool and sink in at least three times. Be sure to water out past edge of plants. Trees and shrubs will only need to be checked every 3 days for the first month and then check weekly thereafter.
- **Week 1:** Check daily. Only water when soil is dry about 1"-2" under the surface, water slowly and deeply. (Test with your finger or a moisture meter.)
- **Week 2:** Check every 2 days. Only water when soil is dry about 1"-2" under the surface. Water slowly and deeply.
- **Week 3:** Check every 3 days. Only water when soil is dry about 1"-2" under the surface. Water slowly and deeply.
- **Ongoing:** During the rest of season, check once a week.
- Call us if you have any questions. We're happy to help.

Drooping or Yellowing Leaves

Limp, hanging or yellowing leaves may indicate either too much or too little water. Check the soil two inches under the mulch. If it is dry, water the ground slowly and deeply. If it is wet, do not water until the soil has had time to dry out. You can also thin or loosen mulch so air can help dry out wet soils.

Protecting Your New Plantings From Rabbits

New plantings are especially vulnerable to rabbits. Young leaves should be protected in spring and summer. Branches should be protected for the winter. Use a trunk protector on young trees for the winter.

Use **chicken wire** to physically keep rabbits away. The wire needs to be at least 20" high and should be as close to the base of the shrub as possible to prevent the rabbit from jumping inside. It is also a good idea to fold about 6" flat away from your garden and bury it 1" below the surface to stop them from digging under the wire. **Repellents** can be used in liquid or granular form. They will need reapplication often and after rain. See product labels for proper application.



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The Growing Place

Growing for the future with right plants in right places



Selecting, Planting & Watering Tips

Our Promise

We stand behind the quality of our plants and ensure that when you take them home each plant is healthy and true to its name. We'll help you find the right plant for the right place and give you growing advice so you can have success in the garden.

Your Responsibility

We cannot warranty plants against conditions that are beyond our control. (ie, animal damage, weather, plants left in their original pot too long without proper care, improper planting, placement or care.) To protect your investment, please use our recommendations to help your plants thrive.

- **Water properly:** Follow our watering instructions.
- **Protect your plants from animal damage:** use chicken wire or other protection
- **Mulch correctly:** avoid smothering plant(s) with too much mulch, do not mulch at base or within 2" around plant.
- **Plant within 2-3 days of purchase** in the conditions the plant is best suited.

Warranty

We offer a one-time store credit for the plant purchase price of the plant that failed. The receipt and the entire plant must accompany all requests for credit. If you are unsure, email pictures to: grow@thegrowingplace.com.

- **Trees, shrubs, & evergreens:** Warranty for one year from date of purchase.
- **Perennials & roses:** Warranty for the current growing season. (Growing season defined as April 1 - October 1)
- **Annuals, herbs, vegetables, and trees/shrubs/perennials used in containers** are not covered under the warranty.

Returns & Exchanges

Items for return or exchange must be in original condition. Receipt required. Because plants are living things, we cannot accept returns on plants that have been left in their pots too long without proper care or plants that have already been planted.

- **Cash/credit card refund within 7 days for live material and hard goods:** Receipt required. Plant or item must be in the same condition and container as purchased.
- **Store credit within 30 days for hard goods:** Receipt required. Item must be in the same condition and packaging as purchased.
- **Holiday Greens & Designer-created Containers:** Refund within 24 hours. Receipt required.

Selecting The Right Plant For The Right Place

Know your garden's sunlight and soil conditions, as well as plant needs before making your selections.

Light Conditions

- **Full Sun:** 6+ hours of sun anytime during the day/south and west sides of buildings.
- **Part shade:** Lightly filtered sun or 3-5 hours of morning sun, sometimes found on the east side of buildings and under the light shade of trees.
- **Full Shade:** 1-3 hours of sun anytime during the day, usually on the north side of homes, between buildings or under trees.

Soil and Moisture Conditions

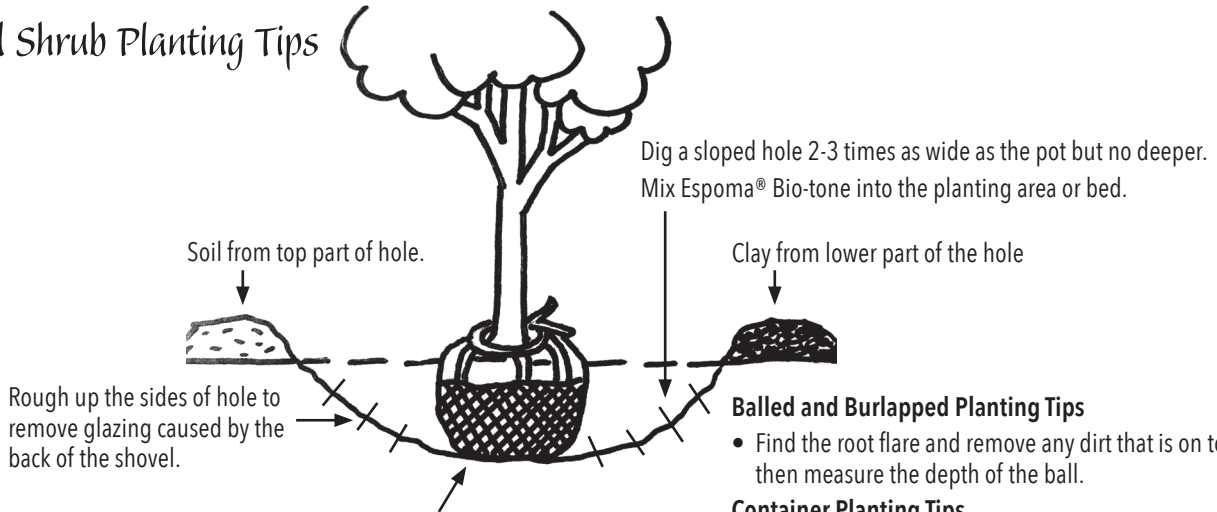
- **Average Soil:** We consider a variety of soils to be average, ranging from predominantly clay to loam soil that has a nice mix of clay, silt, sand and organic materials. Plants labeled 'Average soil' will tolerate a large range of soil types.

- **Well-drained Soil:** This soil type will have a balanced content of sand, silt and/or organic material, allowing it to drain easily. Plants that need well-drained soil will not survive if planted in poorly drained sites.
- **Moist, Well-drained Soils:** This soil type can be found near water sources, depressions and shady woodland areas. High organic, silt and possibly sand content allows water to soak in, and be available through most of the growing season while draining slowly.
- **Wet Soil:** Usually found in low-lying areas and often comprised of predominantly clay. Water is retained for a period of time, especially during seasons of higher moisture.
- **Dry Soil:** Dry soils can be found at the top of slopes, under trees, near pavement and under eaves. These soils absorb water, but drain quickly and excessively. Wet soil can become dry soil during extend periods without rain.

Planting Instructions

Do not plant if the soil is soggy wet. One way to tell if soil is too wet is to squeeze it. If it is sticky and holds its shape it is too wet. Working the soil when it is too wet will remove air spaces and create hard edges when dry making it hard for roots to grow into it.

Tree and Shrub Planting Tips



Balled and Burlapped Planting Tips

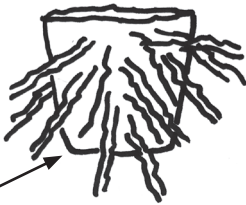
- Find the root flare and remove any dirt that is on top of it, then measure the depth of the ball.

Container Planting Tips

- Remove from container and find root flare for trees. Remove soil above the flare, then measure the depth of the pot.

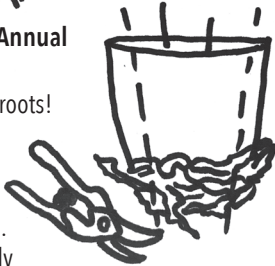
Balled and Burlapped Planting Tips

- After placing in hole, remove ropes, top half of the wire basket, and exposed burlap.



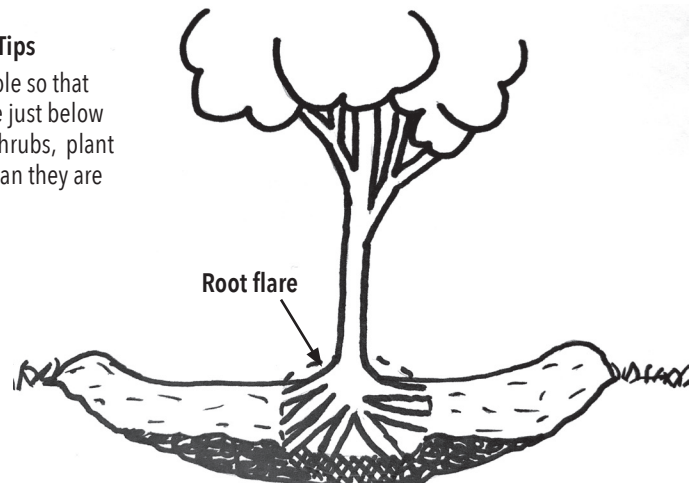
Tree, Shrub, Perennial, & Annual Container Planting Tips

- Don't forget to tease the roots! If the plant's roots are tightly circling, pry them apart and spread out in your planting hole. Cutting the roots vertically will also work.



Container Planting Tips

- Place tree in the hole so that the upper roots are just below ground level. For shrubs, plant them no deeper than they are in the container.



For Balled & Burlapped and Container Tree & Shrub Planting

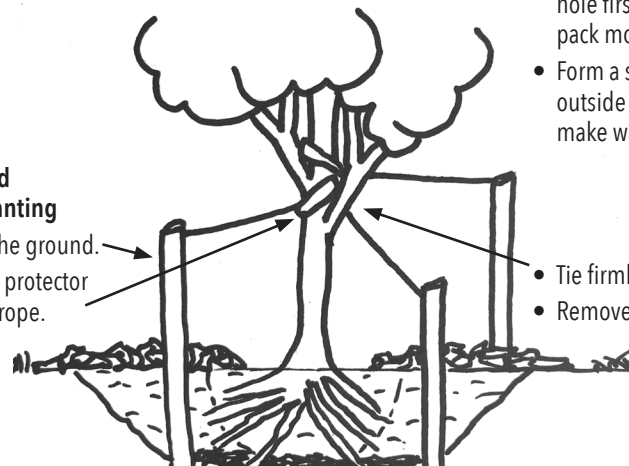
- Water thoroughly after planting.
- Mulch with 2"- 3" bark mulch, keeping mulch from plant stems.

For Balled & Burlapped and Container Planting

- Using the soil clay soil from the lower part of the hole first then the soil from the top part, firmly pack more of it in until even with ground level.
- Form a soil basin with 2"- 3" of soil 4"- 6" outside the edge of the planting hole to help make watering easier.

For Balled & Burlapped and Container Tree Planting

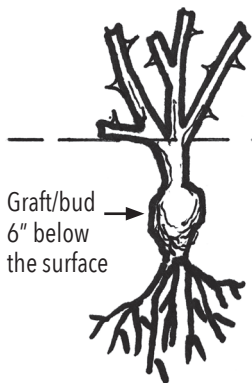
- Pound 3 stakes into the ground.
- Use pieces of hose or protector for trunk and wire or rope.



- Tie firmly to the vertical part of the trunk.
- Remove after 1 year.

Perennial and Annual Planting Tips

- When planting potted perennials and annuals, allow the container soil to dry slightly then remove the plant.
- Add Biotone and amendments, then mix into the planting area or bed. Dig a planting hole no deeper than the pot.
- Don't forget to tease the roots! If the plant's roots are tightly circling, gently pry them apart and spread out in your planting hole. Cutting the roots vertically will also work. (see illustration)
- Break up any large clumps. Lightly firm the soil around the plant. Make sure that you keep the soil level the same as it was in the container.
- If your perennial is in bud or bloom when you plant it, consider cutting these and enjoying them in a vase. This allows the plant to focus energy on growing roots.
- Water thoroughly after planting. See the watering section of this booklet for more details.



Grafted Rose Planting Tips

- Almost all hybrid tea, floribunda and grandiflora roses are grafted, along with a few climbing roses. The graft/bud (resembles an enlarged section at the base). The graft should be placed at least 6" below soil level, requiring a deep planting hole.
- Mulch the rose with 2" to 3" of fine bark or compost avoiding the base of the plant. Grafted roses require winter protection in our area. We recommend a thicker mound of mulch or soil can be mounded over the crown of the plant once the ground has frozen solid.

Own Root Rose Planting Tips

- Roses grown on their own roots (no graft/bud) should be planted at the same soil level as they are in the pot, or just slightly deeper. They do not require additional winter protection.
- All roses should be watered well after planting. Roses will not be happy in heavy soils, add amendments before planting.



Feeding the Soil – Fertilizing

The best thing you can do for new plants is improve the soil they grow in. We recommend 2"- 3" of amendments should be added and mixed into any area where that is possible. This is especially true for heavy clay soils and perennial, annual or vegetable beds. Organic amendments add nutrients and loosen soil so roots can grow easier. Espoma® Bio-tone is important for all planting as it will encourage root growth. Plants need to establish healthy roots first to support vigorous top growth.

NOTE: Most new perennials, trees and shrubs do not require fertilizing the first year, there is often fertilizer already in their containers.

Only annuals and vegetables need a general top growth fertilizer soon after planting because they only have one season to grow.

Ask for our "Recipe for Great Soil" handout for more information.

Mulching Guidelines

Natural mulches benefit all the plants in your garden. We recommend that you select mulch that is a natural by-product and not painted. Our mulches are eco-friendly recycled by-products of the lumber and paper industries. We like to use pine, hardwood and pine fines. We do not recommend Cypress Mulch as it damages southern Cypress Groves.

CAUTIONS: • Stone and gravel used as mulch can elevate soil temperature. • Plastic sheeting can create sterile soil conditions, killing beneficial microorganisms. • Painted mulches can have carcinogens. • Keep mulch away from the base of plants.

For Trees and Shrubs

Keep a 2" - 3" layer of mulch around your trees and shrubs. For trees, the mulched area should grow as the tree gets larger. Ideal would be up to the drip line.

For Annuals and Perennials

Keep a layer of finely shredded Pine Fines or TGP Garden Mix, 1" - 2" in your garden beds. Be sure to keep the mulch away from the stems and crowns of plants to avoid insect problems, fungal diseases and suffocating the plants. If you are sowing seeds, do not mulch until the plants have several sets of leaves and the plants have been thinned for spacing. Weed regularly or weeds may overwhelm your seedlings before they are established.

