

# Plant for Success

## do's of successful planting



- 1 Choose the right plant for the right location!
- 2 Improve your soil!
- 3 Fertilize
- 4 Mulch
- 5 Water
- 6 Enjoy your new planting for years to come!

## the right plant for the right location

- Consider the ultimate size at maturity ... the plant might be perfect now but will it shade the whole house in ten years?!
  - Consider it's natural growth habit ... constantly pruning a sprawling shrub to fit a narrow space is very stressful for the plant & you.
  - Match plants to soil conditions ... eg. if you have a dry, shady spot use plants that will thrive there (see our SHADE HANDOUT for suggestions).
  - Place sun-loving plants in the sun & shade-loving plants in the shade!
- Plants living in stressful conditions will not thrive! Growth will be poor, susceptibility to destructive insects & diseases increases, the plant becomes less hardy & fruit & flower production suffers. If your plants are under constant attack from insects & diseases, or growth is generally poor, then review every aspect of its growing conditions before reaching for the pesticide bottle. The answer inevitably lies here & the solution may be simpler than you think....

## soil

- Soil is the MOST IMPORTANT COMPONENT of successful planting. If your soil is poor the plant will fail to thrive.
- Organic matter such as peat moss, manure & compost are soil conditioners. They give body to light, sandy soils, loosen heavy soils & improve both drainage & moisture retention.
  - Sandy soils lose food & water quickly. Add lots of manure, peat moss or compost & use slow-release fertilizers that won't be leached away so fast.
  - Clay soils are cold, heavy & water logged in wet weather. Peat moss, lime & sand are ideal for breaking them up.
  - Spread a 7-10cm (3-4") layer of the appropriate organic matter for your soil & dig it in to a depth of 20-30cm (8-12"); in better soil or subsequent years, add 2-5cm (1-2") of organic matter.
  - Organic matter feeds the soil & fertilizer feeds the plants! Both are vital & neither can be replaced by the other.

## fertilizer

- As plants grow they use soil nutrients faster than can be replaced by natural means. Feeding is therefore essential for success.
- At planting time we recommend TRANSPLANTER SOLUTION & bonemeal.
- TRANSPLANTER SOLUTION encourages strong root growth & reduces transplant shock.
- Bonemeal also helps establish strong roots & because it works very slowly it will take over after the TRANSPLANTER SOLUTION has done its work....so use both at planting time!
- Follow up during the growing season with a slow-release fertilizer such as 14-14-14 in a granular form: this provides a steady supply of nutrients for up to 3 months without the danger of burning.
- Or choose from specific use formulas such as EVERGRO ROSE, RHODO or EVERGREEN FOOD.

Organic matter feeds the soil;  
fertilizer feeds the plants!

## watering

- Important for all new plantings!!
- Plants should not dry out nor be kept waterlogged! Water regularly in order to keep new plantings evenly moist until plants are well established.

## mulch

- All plants will benefit from a light mulch after planting to help retain moisture & keep the weeds down.
- Good materials are manure, compost, leaf mould, or shredded bark mulch.
- Spread the mulch around the plant a few centimetres (an inch or so) away from the main trunk & out as far as the branch tips (the dripline).
- The mulch should be no more than 2.5cm (1") thick.

# planting instructions

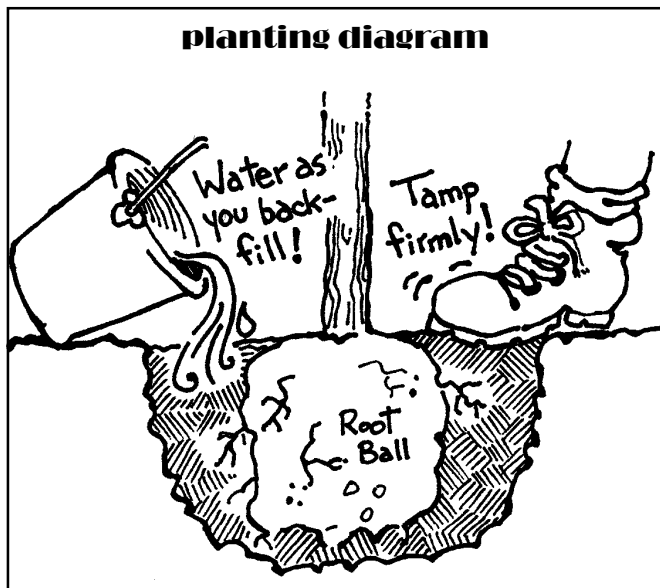
- 1 Make sure your plant is well-watered before planting.
- 2 Dig the planting hole a little wider and a little deeper than the size of the rootball.
- 3 Mix 1 part organic matter with 3 parts soil from the planting hole. NOTE...for acid loving plants (rhodos, azaleas, heathers) use 1 part peatmoss with 2 parts existing soil & add a couple of handfuls of barkmulch. See our RHODO HANDOUT for more details.
- 4 Incorporate a good handful of bonemeal to the soil in the planting hole and/or soak the rootball in TRANSPLANTER SOLUTION according to package directions.
- 5 Carefully ease the pot away from your plant, having moistened the soil first. NOTE....that the stakes of some vines are stapled to the pot & these will have to be removed before the pot can be eased off.
- 6 If the roots are circling the outside of the soil ball, gently loosen them with your fingers to encourage them to branch out.
- 7 Place the root ball in the hole so the top is even with the surrounding soil surface.
- 8 Backfill the hole halfway with amended soil, firming gently to remove air pockets, & water well.
- 9 Add the remaining backfill, firming gently, & water thoroughly once again.
- 10 Water regularly until the plant is well established.
- 11 Top dress with an all-purpose fertilizer such as 14-14-14 during the growing season.

## ball & burlap plants

- 1 Water the plant well before planting.
- 2 Treat b&b plants gently! Don't use the trunk as a handle & never drop them because the root ball could easily shatter.
- 3 Leave the burlap on.
- 4 Set the root ball in the hole so the top is level with the surrounding soil surface.
- 5 Untie the top half of the burlap & spread it out.
- 6 Backfill the hole halfway with amended soil & water well.
- 7 Add the remaining backfill & water thoroughly once again.
- 8 Water regularly until the plant is well established.

95% of gardening failures result from improper planting!!

### planting diagram



## maintain your investment

Now that your plant is settled into its new home, you must continue to care for it to ensure it stays healthy & vigorous.

- 1 Re-apply organic mulches annually in spring.
- 2 Fertilize in spring & again in early fall with an all purpose fertilizer such as 6-8-6.
- 3 A top-dressing in fall of bonemeal is recommended.
- 4 Water regularly during the dry summer months & into early fall.
- 5 Prune to remove dead, dying & diseased wood & to shape the plant if necessary.
- 6 Keep an eye out for possible pest & disease & act immediately to prevent infestations & infections.

Be diligent with your weed control as weeds can be very greedy with moisture & nutrients & new plants don't need the competition!



**maple leaf**  
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