



INSTALLING YOUR NEW PLANTS

#1 - FIRST STEP:

- **Layout** – Decide the location of your new plant(s). If planting multiple plants, lay them out to see if the placement is correct. Sometimes plants have to be slightly moved or rearranged to get the desired look of the garden. With trees or large shrubs, make sure to look for possible future problems such as overhead power lines, fences, walkways, etc.

#2 - DIGGING THE HOLE & PREPARING THE SOIL:

- Dig a hole two times wider than the root ball and taper the sides of the hole. **DO NOT** dig the hole any deeper than 2/3 of the root ball. This is to eliminate any settling that may occur. If the site has poor drainage, widen the hole slightly and leave an undisturbed mound of soil in the center large enough to support the root ball.

#3 – PLANTING DEPTH:

- If the ground is a heavy clay soil, the top surface of the root ball should be 2-4" (if a tree, up to 1/3 of the root ball) above ground level. If the plants are installed into a raised bed, the top of the root ball should be level with the top surface of the soil in the bed.
- **AT NO TIME SHOULD THE TOP SURFACE OF A ROOT BALL BE BELOW SOIL LEVEL. THIS WILL DROWN THE PLANT AND KILL IT QUICKLY, VOIDING ANY WARRANTY.**

#4 – PLANTING:

- **Plastic container:** remove the plant from the plastic container
- **Ball and burlap:** leave the plant within the burlap and wire basket. **REMOVAL WILL VOID ANY WARRANTY.** After tree or shrub has been placed in the hole, remove the strings and loosen burlap only around the base of the stem, tuck the burlap along the sides of the root ball. Make sure the natural trunk flare is exposed. Using soil, make a ring about 2-3" high around the edge of the root ball. This is referred to as "The Watering Dish".
- **Fiber pot:** leave plant in fiber pot, and slice the bottom, or perforate for better drainage. The rim of the pot should cut below the soil level. The remainder of the pot will decompose.
- **Amending the soil to fill the hole:** Overly dry, compacted soils: add peat moss. Used and existing soils: add peat moss, manure or Michigan peat. Heavy clay soils: add fresh topsoil/sand mixture of peat moss and manure. Brand new beds: add peat moss, and Michigan peat or cow manure.

#5- STAKING:

- When staking a tree, place the stake tightly against the side of the root ball. Slightly angle the stake away from the tree. Drive the stake 6-8" into the undisturbed soil at the bottom of the root ball. **Not into the root ball.** Use approximately 5 ft. of Prolock polychain per stake as your tie down.

#6 - FINISH:

- Apply 2" of mulch over the planting area, keeping the mulch 2-3" away from the stem base. At this time, there should be no burlap or portion of the fiber pot exposed.

CARE SHEET: PLANTING & WATERING INSTRUCTIONS

PLANT CARE: AFTER INSTALLATION

FERTILIZING: Use Bio-tone® or a starter fertilizer equivalent at the time of planting, then a granular fertilizer such as 10-10-10 (1) month after planting.

WATERING:

Water all plant material once it is delivered or picked up, and twice a day until planted.

- **Water is the most important element to maintain your plant's health.**
- Newly planted material requires more water than established ones.
- Evergreen shrubs and trees and any large trees should be watered every 2-3 days for the entire season.
- Leafy plants such as Spiraea, Potentilla, Variegated Jap. Willow, or Barberry require watering every day for the first month, then every 2-3 days thereafter.
- It's important for you to water even if it rains during this time period.
- Apply the water directly over the plant's root system until a puddle forms around the base of the plant. This will ensure proper and thorough watering. You may have to repeat this step 3 to 4 times each time you water.
- Roots on a newly planted tree or shrub don't reach the surrounding soil until 4-6 weeks after planting.
- If you are unsure how deep the water has penetrated, use a hand shovel and dig down alongside the root ball.
- **AT NO TIME SHOULD A NOZZLE OR A SPRINKLER BE USED FOR WATERING.**
- The open end of a hose with a steady flow works the best.

***PLEASE NOTE: Failure to follow these planting instructions will result in the cessation of any type of replacement or exchange. Plant(s) must also be planted in the ground for warranty to apply.**

