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## Planting Guide

### Potted Nursery Plants

***Dig a broad shallow planting hole.*** Enlarge the hole up to twice the diameter of the root ball. Existing soils beneath many planting sites have been compacted and are unsuitable for healthy root growth. The fresh loose soil from replanting provides the new emerging roots room to grow and expand. This will stimulate quick healthy regeneration.

***The top of rootball is at soil level.*** Before placing the plant in the hole, measure the depth of the root ball. The majority of the roots develop in the top 12" of the soil. If the plant is too deep, new roots will have difficulty due to lack of oxygen or can drown if overwatered.

***Slit sides of container vertically.*** Remove the top 1/2 to 2/3 of the fiber container. For a plastic container, slit the sides to loosen and remove gently from the pot. If the roots are encircled, ruffle them slightly to help new growth.

***Fill the hole gently but firmly.*** Fill the hole 1/3 full and tamp the original soil around the base of the root ball. Fill the balance of the hole by adding several inches of soil at a time and settle with water. Repeat this process until the hole is filled. Grade soil to form a shallow depression around the plant to collect water.

***Mulch the base of the plant.*** Mulch acts as a blanket to hold moisture, protect against harsh soil temperature and reduce competition from grass and weeds. It also protects against lawn mower and weed trimmer damage. A 2" to 4" layer of shredded bark is ideal.

***Watering.*** It is important to water thoroughly when you water. The root ball will be a minimum depth of 18-24 inches. This is how deep you must soak your plants. Weather will affect watering. If nature provides a soaking rain of 1" or greater, it would replace watering for the week. Periods of hot dry weather will require additional moisture while the opposite is true during extended wet periods.