



Preparing Your Plants for Planting: Rinse the roots thoroughly. You will need to soak them in water for at least 8 hours. This ensures that they're properly hydrated before planting. You may need to cut off any damaged roots.

Temporary Planting: Sometimes Mother Nature doesn't permit planting upon receiving. Do not panic, you can temporarily heal your plants into a bucket of loose soil, mulch or other planting material. Make sure there is ample drainage and that they're kept in a cool dry area free from direct sunlight.

Bare Root Fruit Trees, Nut Trees, Shrubs & Bushes:

The soil should be loose and of good quality. Free from rocks, weeds and old root systems. Dig the holes at least 2 times the width and the depth of the root mass. Working in some Peat Moss, manure, humus, with the existing soil is always recommended. Fill the hole at least half full of water. Now place plant in the ground, adding back the dirt and/or mixture you have prepared. Once covered, gently pat the dirt and then water once more. Do not over pack, as this will allow water to run off later. Water at least 3 times a week for spring/summer seasons and only 1-2 times a week, or "as needed" during fall/winter seasons. Trees over 3 feet high should be staked for at least a year until the roots grab hold of the soil.

Raspberries and Blackberries:

Dig holes at least 2 times the width and the depth of your root mass. Hole should be 3-5 feet apart - rows 6 feet apart. The soil should be rich in humus. Your raspberries and blackberries should always have free flowing air during a growing season. This lowers the humidity and discourages fungus diseases. Keep the ground moist, but provide good drainage. Cultivate early in the season and after the plants are established. Plant black and purple varieties 100 feet away from red and yellow varieties. Keep weeds under control during the growing season. Weeds compete with plants for water, space and nutrients. Control them by either cultivating often or use a mulch to prevent their seeds from germinating.

Perennials:

Most perennials prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Beds should be tilled thoroughly before beginning. Till the area to a depth of about 10 inches, add a few inches of compost, and till again. If the plant has top growth, you'll be able to see the original soil line. If there is no top growth, you'll want to set the plant so the crown -- the top of the roots where the stems will emerge -- sits at or just below the soil line. The width of the planting hole should one and one half the size of the root mass. Build a cone of

soil in the bottom of the planting hole. Do not add fertilizer to the planting hole. Place the plant in the hole, spreading the roots around the surface of the cone. Gently backfill the hole, firming the soil as you go. Don't step on the soil -- just press it down with your hands. Leave a slight depression around the plant to hold water. Water the plant, saturating the soil around the plant. Once the plant is established, lay a 2- to 3-inch thick layer of mulch around plants to conserve moisture and deter weeds. Be sure to leave a few inches bare around the base of the plant.

Hedges & Evergreens:

First you will want to get your line straight. You can use a rope stretched between two stakes to make sure your line is straight. Begin by placing the two end plants in their positions and then space the remaining plants evenly between them. Take your time with the spacing – gaps will show for quite a long time. The hole should be wider than the root mass and almost as deep. Measure it against your shovel and don't dig down further than that. Set the plant in the hole, making sure your plant sits just above the soil level. Fill half way with water. Once it's watered in, continue backfilling. Do this for every plant down the line. Once all the plants are in the ground, you'll need to water them again. Give your plants plenty of water at first and water them regularly.

Blueberries:

Most blueberries require an acidic soil and prefer moist soil with good drainage. Mulching vs cultivating is recommended. When growing blueberries, a PH level of 4.5-5. is the optimum range. We highly recommend that you have your soil tested when planting blueberries. You can achieve this by using compost, organic materials and aluminum sulfate. Spacing the plants according to their growing needs, usually about 5' with 8' between rows. Dig a hole that is twice as wide and deep as the size of the root/dirt system. The plants should be set into the planting hole at the same depth they were growing in the nursery. You should be able to see a soil line around the stem which will indicate how deep it was. Spread the roots and position each plant so that all the roots will be covered with soil. Do not let them dry out. Backfill with dirt and add water. Gently pat and allow time to take root. Plants should be watered weekly during the first year, unless they receive plenty of rain. Wait four to six weeks after planting before adding any fertilizer. Do not apply fertilizer in late summer or fall. This could stimulate new succulent growth that could become injured during winter.

Follow Up Care:

CULTIVATE - Controlling weeds is important. Frequent shallow cultivation will help.

MULCH - A mulch of your choice is recommended. There are many benefits to mulching. Mulch insulates the soil helping to provide a buffer from heat and cold temperatures. Mulching retains water helping to keep the roots moist. It keeps weeds out to help prevent root competition. Prevents soil erosion, compaction and reduces lawn mower damage.

WATER - Give plants all the water the soil can absorb at one time. Evergreens, especially need to be given ample water in late fall before freezing begins. It is important to give plenty of water during dry spells. This will be necessary the first several years for trees. Watering perennials the first year is especially important. Do not allow the ground to dry out, but do not let it get soggy unless the plant can tolerate moist conditions. Keeping the plants well hydrated will aid in their root development and help the plant get established before winter. After the first year, when the plants are well established, many perennials can even tolerate dry periods. Nature's rainfall should be enough water unless there are prolonged dry spells.

FERTILIZE - We don't recommend fertilizing your trees the first year. Trees should be fertilized regularly only after the first year. Once your perennials are well rooted, typically the second year, you can begin fertilizing. Fertilizing too soon can damage tender root systems. Be patient, wait to fertilize.

PRUNE - At planting, remove only diseased, dead, or broken branches. Begin training a plant during the dormant season following planting. Prune to shape young trees, but don't cut back the leader. Remove crossing branches and branches that grow back towards the center of the tree. You only mean to improve the structure of your tree. **Happy Planting!**