

# Container Grown Planting Guidelines

## Step 1

- Unpack your plants as soon as they arrive.
- Remove any plastic or wrapping material used to secure plant in container.
- Trim off any broken branches and any damaged leaves that may have occurred during shipment.

## Step 2

- Fill a wash tub or garbage can with enough water to completely submerge the plant container(s) you received.
- Plunge the plant container completely under water and keep it submerged until bubbling stops.
- Pull container out of water and set on ground to drain excess water.

## Step 3

- Pull the plastic container gently off the root system or gently cut off the plastic grow bag that you may have received.
- With a sharp knife or a spade, remove the bottom 1 inch of soil from the root ball (gives tremendous boost to new root growth).

## Step 4

- Dig a hole only as deep as the container is, and at least 1 foot wider or even more.
- Place the plant root ball into the hole at the same depth as it was in the container.
- Fill with your dirt and saturate the soil around the root ball.
- Mulch to help retain moisture and deter weeds. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep and 18 to 24 inches wide. Avoid having mulch touch the base of the plant.

## Step 5

- Watering: Keep moist! Touch the soil close to the base of the plant with your finger just under the surface. This is the best way to see if your plant needs water. If the soil is moist, skip watering that day. If the soil feels dry, give the plant a watering.
- For the first few weeks check your planting for moisture every day.
- Once your plant is fully leafed out or has been planted for 4 weeks or so, checking the soil 2 to 3 times a week, depending on weather, should be sufficient.

**Note:** Yard sprinklers may or may not water the plants sufficiently, so please use the finger test (step 5) every day to gauge soil moisture.