

COLLIER'S

NURSERY

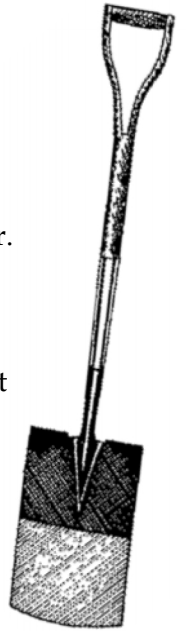
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General Guidelines for Outdoor Plants

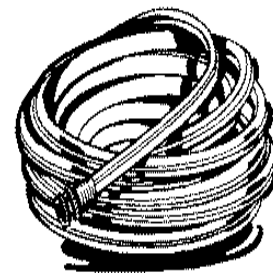
First and foremost, make sure you have the right plant for the right place! We do our best to adequately explain the particular needs of each plant, but if you have any questions whatsoever - don't ever hesitate to ask.

Planting:

- For trees and shrubs try and dig the hole two to three times as wide as the container. You only need to dig down as deep as the plant sits in the pot, although it's a good idea to loosen up the soil a little beneath where the root ball will sit.
- We recommend amending your existing soil with ~ 30% soil helper, which is pulverized pine bark. You simply scatter the soil helper on the pile of dirt that came out of the hole and mix it all together into a somewhat uniform blend.
- Carefully take the plant out of the container right over the hole that you've dug so that the fertilizer that is in the pot ends up in the hole.
- When you place the plant in the hole, you want to top of the plant to be ~1" above the existing soil to increase drainage. Make sure that you mound the soil up to the top edge of the roots, but never place soil over the top of the roots.
- It's always a good idea to loosen the root ball. Just a little if you're not seeing many roots and this can be done with just your fingers. If you're looking at a whole lot of roots, you need to fairly thoroughly loosen those roots and this is best done with a pocket knife or screw driver. Make vertical slits along the roots about 1/2" deep from top to bottom spaced about 6" apart. It is also useful to loosen the bottom of the roots as well.
- Carefully fill in around the edges of the plant, working the amended soil down towards the bottom. Lightly firm the soil in around the edges as you go.
- Add two to four inches of your choice of mulch and water in slowly.



Fertilizing: Most young plants benefit from some supplemental fertilizer. There are a few exceptions, but as a rule we fertilize most everything in April and again around July with a granulated fertilizer called Nursery Special. We scatter the recommended amount around the canopy of the plant being careful to avoid putting any on the crown of the plant. The coating on the pellets allows the fertilizer to be released over a 3 to 4 month period and it also helps to reduce the chance of burning.



Watering: It is hard to summarize a subject with so many variables as this one, but we'll touch on the basics. It's always wise to apply a nice layer of mulch around all plantings, this helps in many ways but especially in water retention. Watering is more about quality than quantity! It would be much better to water your plants deeply once a week than lightly three times a week. It is also helpful for the root system to experience some drying out - resulting in new roots being forced to search outward and allowing the proper levels of oxygen into the root zone. The watering needs also change according to the season and for the amount of time since planting. The following recommendations are for *newly planted* material.

- **Spring:** From March until early June one deep watering a week is usually sufficient.
- **Summer:** This is, as would be expected, the time that most people have the bulk of their troubles. Newly planted shrubs and trees will need at least one good soaking a week - preferably two during plus 90 degree times.
- **Fall:** One of the advantages of Fall planting is that you don't have to water nearly as much. Generally speaking, anytime after mid-October newly planted material is fine as long as it receives rainfall once a week or so. Deciduous material that drops its foliage should be fine with strictly natural rainfall after leaf drop.
- **Winter:** After a nice initial watering, you shouldn't have to worry with supplemental watering until around May.

One thing to keep in mind is that the growing medium that most of our shrubs and trees are grown in is ~ 85% pulverized pine bark - which is incredibly porous. Therefore, within a short amount of time, the water will not only drain through the porous mix but the surrounding dense, clay based soil will actually wick moisture away as well. .

Containers: Everything changes when you put plants in an artificial environment. All plants dry out much faster in pots - they don't have the insulating properties of mulch or soil around them plus they have gravity working against the water staying put. Therefore, *in most cases* May thru September we recommend daily watering for outdoor containers. Many customers have had luck adding moisture retaining granules to the soil mix. Once Fall and Winter arrive you can scale back accordingly. For those who want to take the guess work out of it, we recommend using a moisture meter, which instantly measures the moisture content in the soil.



Timing: We are often asked, "What's the best time of year to plant?" Generally speaking, Fall is the best time, followed then by Winter, Spring, and lastly Summer. However, planting can truly be done successfully anytime of year - you just have to be careful and diligent the closer to Summer you get.