



Landscaping & Garden

How to

Plant
and

Care
for your Nursery Stock



SPECIFIC PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

At Forde Nursery, our plants are available in four different root types:

1. **BARE ROOT (BR)** It is critical that you keep the roots of BR plants moist at all times. If not able to plant immediately, store the package in a shady, cool spot, protected from the wind (preferably indoors). If possible, soak roots in water overnight before planting. Don't soak longer than 24 hours. When planting, be sure to spread roots out carefully in the hole and work soil gently in around the roots so as not to leave any air pockets. Prune any broken roots.
2. **CONTAINER GROWN (CG)** stock has been grown in the pot for at least one growing season. Consequently, the soil medium in the container is well bound by the root system. To remove CG plants from their pot, tap on sides of pot with hands to break surface tension between soil and sides of pot, then slide pot gently off of root ball. If roots were circling inside pot, gently loosen with hands.
3. **POTTED** stock is plant material that has been grown in the container for less than one year. We take top quality bare root plants and pot them in the spring. It takes several weeks to several months for the root system to solidly bind the soil medium. It is very important, when removing potted stock from the container, that the root ball remains firmly intact. (See diagrams on following pages.)
4. **BALLED & BURLAPPED (B&B)** stock is plant material dug with a ball of soil around the roots which is then wrapped in burlap and bound with wire and/or twine. The root systems are essentially intact, but it is very important to handle these plants gently so as not to break up the balls. **Do not try to remove the burlap from the entire ball.** To plant B&B stock:
 - Gently set ball in hole - handle by root ball.
 - Situate tree how you want it; backfill 1/2 of the way up the ball; firm soil gently with hands.
 - Cut twine from around trunk and cut away top 1/2 of burlap (any wire can either be pushed down into hole or cut off the top 1/3 of ball).
 - Backfill the rest of the way, water, mulch, etc.

GENERAL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you are not planting immediately, water plants thoroughly and keep them out of the wind and hot sun.
2. Handle plants gently. Always lift and carry by pot or root ball.
3. Dig holes at least twice as wide as the container or root ball. **Roots need to spread outward, much more so than downward, so do not plant too deeply.** Plants should be set slightly higher than grown in the nursery. With heavy clay soils or other poor drainage conditions, install plants 2-3" above surrounding grade and slope soil away from center of plant.
4. For trees, it is generally best to use the same soil you remove to backfill your planting hole. However, if soil is heavy clay, add EKO Compost to your backfill. Blend 1 part compost to 2 or 3 parts soil, depending on how heavy the soil is.
5. Because the quality of our soil is generally very poor in this area, it is highly recommended that you add compost to all new shrub and especially perennial beds. Spread a layer of 2-4" of EKO Compost over the entire bed and work it into the top 6-8" of soil.
6. Using extra soil from hole, build a shallow basin to water into so water soaks down to the root zone and does not run off. **(Build this basin above grade. Do not make a depression below grade that may collect too much water and drown the plant.)**

WATERING It is crucial that all plants are watered **thoroughly** at the time of planting. Water slowly to allow water to penetrate deeply and soak the entire root zone.

With our hot, dry, windy summers, we must not neglect new plantings. The frequency of watering, however, depends greatly upon soil type and current weather conditions. Keep in mind the following:

- In sandy, well-drained soil, water deeply every 3 days until your plants are established (about 30 days) and every 5-7 days after that.
- Plants in heavier soil will require water less often. Your plants will need a deep soaking about every 5 days until established (about 30 days) and every 7-10 days thereafter.
- Under hot and/or windy conditions, plants will require water more often. In cooler or rainy weather, water less often.

Certain plants, until established, will require more water than others. Some that need more water than normal are: hydrangea, birch, potentilla, arborvitae (cedar), roses, aspen, spirea, dogwood, and many perennials and other plants in smaller pots.

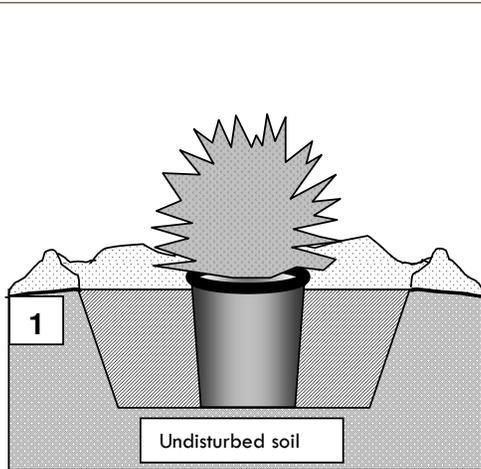
Do not over water, that is, water too often. Plants must breathe, as well as drink, and saturated soils do not contain enough oxygen. Keep in mind, "*you can't water your plants too much at one time, but you can water too often*". So make sure your plants aren't constantly flooded.

It is very important to water all plants **heavily** in the fall - about the 1st of November - before the ground freezes. This is especially true of evergreens or anything planted in late summer or fall.

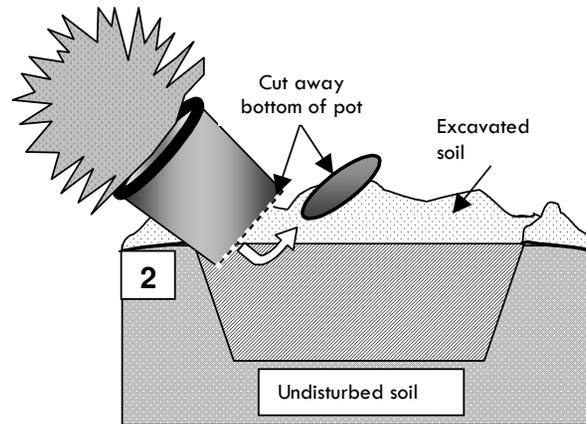
When watering plants located on a hillside, remember to water slowly and deeply. If you are not careful, water will run off before it has a chance to soak in.

If you will not be planting your new plants right away, avoid leaving plants in hot windy areas and water daily.

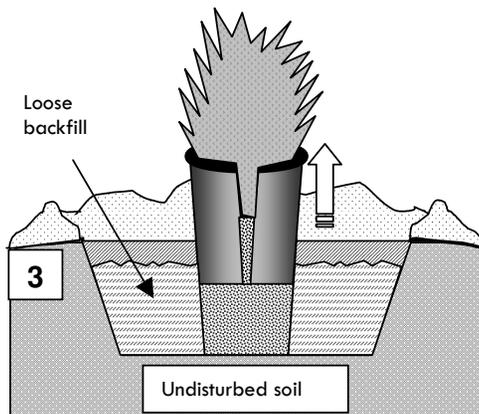
HOW TO PLANT POTTED NURSERY STOCK



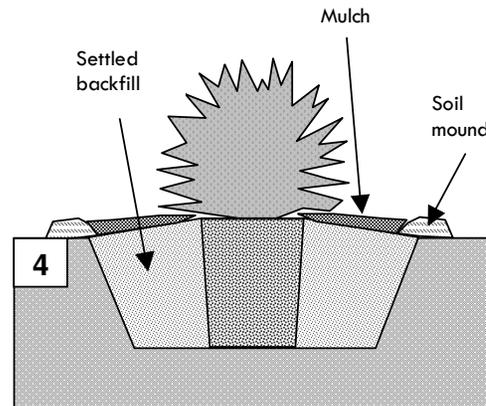
1 Dig hole at least twice as wide as pot, but no deeper than needed. Set container in hole to check depth. The soil level in the pot should be about 2-3" higher than the surrounding grade when planted properly.



2 After proper depth has been determined, remove plant from hole and carefully cut off bottom of pot with a sharp knife. Discard bottom of pot and set plant back in hole. Make sure planting depth is still okay.



3 Using a sharp knife, carefully slit the pot up one side. Next, backfill the hole about 3/4 of the way with loose soil. Do not tamp. Now, as you slowly slip the sides of the pot out of the hole and over the plant, the loose soil will fill in to hold the root ball intact.



4 After pot is slipped out, backfill the rest of the way. Use extra soil to form a reservoir for watering. Gently tamp soil by hand and water thoroughly. Check for any settling and add soil if needed. Water thoroughly again. Add 2" of mulch over surface to retain moisture.

MULCHING Placing a 2-3" layer of wood, bark or decorative rock on the soil surface around your new plantings will reduce plant stress and the amount of watering required. With decorative rock, we highly recommend using a layer of **Typar** weed control fabric underneath.

STAKING With the exception of smaller trees or ones planted in protected areas, we recommend staking all trees for the first year. Use 2 or 3 **Tree Slings** around the trunk (about chest height) attached with wire to vertical stakes of wood or steel. Do not use wire through a section of garden hose around the trunk. Do not stake too tightly - allow the tree to sway slightly in the wind. **Do not leave stakes on for more than one year.**

PRUNING Forde Nursery will do any pruning your new plants require before you take them home with you. Because pruning needs vary widely from plant to plant, we suggest contacting us with any specific questions you may have about your established plantings. Tip: Dead-heading (removing spent blossoms) will not only make your plants look better, it will encourage longer or better blooming in lilacs, roses, potentillas, perennials and many other plants.

FERTILIZING The first year we recommend using a water soluble fertilizer. Slow release fertilizers can be used for younger established plants or in the fall for new plants. Check with our staff for more specific recommendations for your individual plants.

INSECTS AND DISEASES Examine your plants at regular intervals to determine whether or not any insect or disease problem is present. Treatment is most effective if begun early, so at the first sign of problems, contact us. With proper instructions, you can control most of these problems yourself.

Many insect and disease problems can be reduced or prevented with the application of safe and effective **Dormant Oils** in the early spring.

Forde Nursery can provide you with the necessary fertilizers and insecticides, plus pruning and staking materials for the care of your plants.



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