



## Plant Care Guidelines

\*\*\*In order to keep your plants healthy, please follow the guidelines below when planting and caring for your purchase.\*\*\*

For best results, plant your material as soon as possible. Although, if the temperature is above 90 to 95 degrees consider waiting until it cools down. Place plants in a shaded location and water at least twice daily until water runs out the bottom of the container.

### **Soil Preparation & Conditioning**

Dig the planting hole 1 ½ -2 times the size of the existing root system or container size. Place the backfill soil around the planting hole and incorporate some good compost (not potting soil) into the hole and into the backfill. Depending on how much clay is in your soil, you will want to have 2/3 native soil to 1/3 compost in the mixture. On hot days it is essential that your planting hole, backfill, and plant root ball are all saturated with water. Add fertilizer to your planting hole and backfill soil. A good time release fertilizer such as Osmocote works well or a general all-purpose or starter organic granular fertilizer will greatly help to establish your plants.

### **Planting**

Remove plant from container. If burlap is present do not remove completely, instead untie burlap from around the plant and peel down from the crown of the plant no more than 1/3 down. Cut off excess burlap. The remaining burlap *will* biodegrade once the root system starts to grow out to the existing soil. Make sure to remove any twine or metal caging as this *will not* biodegrade.

If the roots are circling the bottom of the container, loosen, break apart or cut the outside roots. Every place you cut off roots, new roots will develop.

Place the plant in the planting hole no deeper than it was planted in the container. Allow for soil settling. Make sure to place your plant in the best looking direction; most plants have a front side depending on how they were grown at the nursery.

Place the backfill around the plant's root ball to fill the hole. On sloped plantings, create a well so water will percolate down into the root ball and not run off. It is best to gently compact the soil with your fingers to settle the soil, and then let the first couple of waterings dissipate the large air pockets. Do not stomp the soil to settle it.

Mulch with compost or bark. This will greatly help to retain moisture around the developing root system. Make sure to not put mulch right against the trunk or crown of plant as this could potentially promote decay or rot. Stake trees with flexible chain lock for the first season.

### **Watering**

After planting, water thoroughly. Repeat a second time. \*Even with an irrigation system, you must hand water for the first season to ensure proper root development.\* Regular watering should occur once every one to two days, especially during the warm months. In order to tell if you are watering the correct amount, submerge your finger about an inch or so into the soil at the root ball. If the soil is moist all the way around the plant's root ball, it is getting enough water. During extreme heat, new plantings can show heat stress and leaf burning even if they are receiving the correct amount of water. They should re-leaf out when cooler temperatures resume either later in the year or by next spring.

### **Please Remember**

Each plant has certain light requirements, even when your plant is not yet in the ground. Whether you are storing your plant in its container or putting it in the ground, please adhere to the specific light requirements for that particular plant. Some plants that take full sun can still burn when getting established (such as Japanese maples).

If you have a questions regarding this or any other issue please do not hesitate to call Garden World @ (503) 982-2380.

**Thank you and we greatly appreciate your business!**