

How To Install Your New Plants



Dig a wide, shallow hole for your new plant. **PLANT THE ROOT BALL 10% ABOVE GRADE.** Place the dirt from the hole around the rootball, **NOT** on top of the new planting. Even one inch of dirt on top of the new root ball can suffocate the roots.

If plantings are made during the dry months or at sites without irrigation, it may be advantageous to create a soil “dam” around your new plant that can hold water. Once the plant is established, the dam can be raked away so water will slope away from the plant.

It is **NOT** necessary to pull the roots away from the rootball before planting. Disturbing the roots can cause stress to the plant and defoliate or even kill the new plant. If a plant is rootbound, make several shallow vertical cuts on the sides of the rootball before planting. Significantly rootbound plants may not attain optimal growth. We strive to carry only “fresh” plants recently acquired from the grower.

New plantings will need to be treated with care and attention. We recommend that these plants should be watered daily for the first month; every other day for the next thirty days; and every third day for the following month. Plants should be carefully monitored during the first year to make sure that they are not stressed by lack of water as they become established. Establishment may take several months depending on the kind of plant and environmental conditions.

A layer of mulch two to three inches over the root ball will help retard weed growth and retain moisture, particularly during the dry months. **DO NOT PACK MULCH UP TO THE PLANT STEMS OR TRUNKS TO AVOID ROT.** Mulch breaks down over an extended period of time to assist in creating a layer of nutrient-rich top soil.

Southwest Florida soils tend to be somewhat alkaline and many plants require more acidity for optimal health and growth. Some of these acid loving plants include the Magnolia, Ixora, Gardenia, Hibiscus, Rose, Azalea and Cordylines. Pine straw brings additional acidity to the soil and can be even more effective as a weed retardant.

Our soils usually lack nutrients necessary for lush, healthy plants. Plants will need a good **CONTROL RELEASE** fertilizer formulated for Florida soil conditions two to four weeks after planting. We recommend a high quality fertilizer such as Nurseryman’s Sure-Gro 12-4-12 palm fertilizer that can be used on **ALL** plants, including palms, citrus, trees, shrubs, and bedding plants. This fertilizer contains all of the micro-elements needed for optimal plant growth, and also acts to acidify the soil.

Lower quality fertilizers can break down quickly with our high soil temperatures and heavy rains, leeching into our groundwater and providing little benefit to the plants. Good control release fertilizers should be applied at intervals recommended by the manufacturer. We carry a three and a six month fertilizer which makes fertilizing schedules very easy to execute during the year, particularly for “snowbirds” and others who travel.



Please give us a call if you have any plant questions at 239-693-5555 or email us at info@riverlandnursery.com.