

# Perennial Guide

## New Plants



### Planting:

It is best to plant your new tree, shrub or perennial as soon as possible after taking it home. If you can't plant it right away, place it somewhere it is sheltered from the wind and harsh sun and keep it watered. Find a suitable location for your plant (we can help with finding the right plant for the right spot). Prepare this place by removing the sod or mulch from the digging area. Dig the hole two to three times wider than the root ball but no deeper. It is best to have the top of root ball level or just barely higher than the surrounding soil. If there are roots circling the outside of the root ball, it is good to rough them up a little or even score them with a knife to encourage them to grow out into the surrounding soil. Place the plant in the hole and double check that the top of the root ball is at the same level as the soil, and the plant is straight and facing like you want it to. Fill the hole with the soil you dug out (there is no need to amend the soil with anything unless you have very sandy or heavy clay soil, then it is ok to add some compost) and tamp it down lightly to eliminate air pockets and hold the plant in place. Water thoroughly with water mixed with Root Stimulator. Mulch to a depth of about two inches but not piled up against the trunk. Stake or protect from wind and animals as needed.

### Watering:

Newly planted trees and shrubs need regular and consistent watering until their root systems are established. This means that they need more frequent watering than established trees and shrubs. They should be watered daily for the first week or two after planting, every two to three days for the next three months, and then weekly for the remainder of the growing season. For best results, use Root Stimulator when planting and two weeks later to promote



growth and reduce transplant shock. Depending on the weather and soil conditions during this time period, you should give new trees roughly three gallons of water at each watering and apply the water directly over the root ball to keep the backfill soil moist. Slow, deep waterings will allow for the best absorption by the soil and roots. Shrubs should be given about one gallon of water in the same manner. In the early weeks after planting a new plant it's best to probe the soil with a small stick or your finger to see if it is dry or too wet.



- Stop in or call for any questions (712-336-2085)  
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