

MEL'S

where home and garden come together

PLANTING 101

Proper planting from the onset of your purchase will guarantee the longevity and vigor of your tree, shrub, perennial or annual.

We recommend the following method from planting your purchase:

1. If your tree or shrub is “balled and bur lapped”, known in the trade as B & B, remove all twine and carefully pull back burlap to no more than 1/3 of the way down the root ball. Using the burlap, gently lower the root ball into the planting hole. Potted plants should be gently rolled on their side to loosen the pot.
2. The outer roots of the root-ball should be teased to promote spread into the surrounding soil. Some roots will be damaged, this is unavoidable, however try to be as careful as possible. These fine roots are what will absorb the moisture and nutrients needed for establishment.
3. Dig the hole two times as deep and as wide as the plants existing root-ball. The hole should be a gradual, sloped saucer rather than straight sides.
4. To avoid staking, if planting a tree, a small depression can be made in the bottom of the hole to allow the root-ball to sit snugly. This will secure the tree from wind, except in the most exposed and windy of sites.
5. Make sure that you plant the same depth as was in the container. If “B&B”, look for the root-flare, this is where the trunk begins to flare out into the root mass. DO NOT plant any deeper than this point. A plant installed even 1/2” too deep will not thrive and will die prematurely. The handle of your shovel can be laid across the hole to serve as a level.
6. Backfill the hole and firm around the roots with your hand to ensure good root-soil contact. Do not stomp down with your feet this compacts the soil too much. If you feel you must add something to the backfill use well rotted compost only.
7. Water thoroughly. It’s helpful to mound a rim of soil around trees and shrubs at about the same diameter as the drip line. This will aid in deep watering. Fill this “moat” several times and let it soak in. *Deep watering is crucial as new plants become established.* Most sprinkler systems do not supply adequate moisture for new plants, especially in hot or windy conditions.