

# Planting Perennial and Annual Plants



Place your plants around your planting area while still in their pots. Make sure you have taken into consideration the mature height of the plants as well as the sun or shade requirements. Determine an appropriate location for planting, then dig a hole 2 times the width & 6"-8" deeper than the pot. Follow the same process for enriching the soil as Trees and Shrubs. Water your plants thoroughly, then remove them from their pots by inverting them and supporting the root ball. If the roots are compacted, you may need to make a few shallow cuts through the roots on the side and bottom of the root ball. Place your plant into the hole. Backfill beneath and around the root ball with the enriched soil mixture. Water the plant thoroughly to ensure the soil fills in completely around the roots, eliminating air pockets. Monitor your plants daily. Water slowly to attain deep water penetration which encourages widespread root development. Feed once per month with **Espoma Plant-tone, Flower-tone or Bulb-tone** or feed once per week with one of our water soluble fertilizers. Add a 2"-3" mulch layer around the plant. This will help prevent water loss and weeds.

## Recommended Products

### Espoma Products

Since 1929, The Espoma Company has been the pioneer in natural gardening solutions. From our leading organic plant food, **Holly-tone®**, to our new **Espoma Organic Potting Mixes**, we provide the most extensive selection of natural organic products that work in harmony with nature to grow beautiful lawns & gardens, preserve natural resources, and make a safer world for future generations.

### Bonide Products

Bonide has always been committed to providing the best possible solutions for home, lawn and garden pest problems. Ask us how a Bonide product can provide an innovative, cost effective solution to your problem.



## Bakerstown and Glenshaw Feed and Garden Center Guarantee

We offer a one year guarantee on your tree and shrub purchases. Replacement is made based on the purchase price. No refunds. Does not apply to discounted items. Please save your receipt with this planting guide. Plants are only warranted once. The warranty does not cover roses, buddleia, fruit trees, perennials, annuals or vegetable garden plants. It also does not cover mechanical injuries, animal browsing or insect damage. Remember rarely does a plant die overnight. Please watch for signs of distress in your new plants and let us know as soon as possible. Many serious problems can be solved if caught early.

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# Planting Guide



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# Planting Trees and Shrubs

## Before You Plant

Always plant in a well drained soil. To test for soil drainage, dig a hole for your new plant and fill it with water. If the water doesn't drain in 12 hours, the soil in that area will need to be amended dramatically.

## The Planting Hole

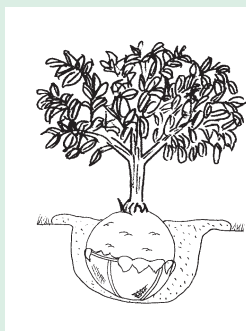
To plant your tree or shrub dig a hole twice as wide as the diameter and 6"-8" deeper than the root ball, replacing the 6"-8" of soil with enriched backfill. Compact this 6"-8" of soil. Once the plant is placed in the hole, the top of the root ball should be level with the surface of the ground.

## Placing Your Plant In The Hole

**Balled & Burlapped Plants:** Remove all tags, wires or ropes from the stems or trunk, and do the following:

### Balled & Burlapped Plants:

DO NOT remove the wire basket. Once the enriched soil has been placed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up the root ball, cut & fold down the top  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the basket & burlap, remove any strings around the tree trunk. Fill the remaining hole with enriched soil to its original level.



**Container Plants:** Ease the pot off without disturbing the root ball. Gently break off the bottom 1"-2" of the root ball. This can be done with your hands or a sharp spade. This will help stimulate new root growth.

## Enriching Your Soil & Backfilling

The goal here is to create a transition zone so that your new plant may adapt to our native soil. This is achieved by mixing **Espoma All Purpose Garden Soil** with the native soil. The ideal ratio is 1/3 to 1/2 **Espoma All Purpose Garden**

**Soil** to 2/3 to 1/2 native soil. Back fill around the root ball with this mixture. Fill the hole 2"-3" at a time and lightly tamp until the soil is to its original level. Use excess soil to build a ring 6"-10" from the outside of the hole. This will help the water to move slowly down to the root zone of the plant as well as minimize runoff.



## Watering

Water your newly planted tree or shrub by using a slow, deep watering method. Root balls dry out faster than the soil around them, so it is important to monitor their soil moisture. Water slowly to attain deep water penetration which encourages widespread root development. However, you do not want to water-log your plant, or keep it in a persistent state of moisture. Water when the soil in the root ball begins to dry.

## General Watering Guidelines:

1 gal. Pot – trickle water for approx. 15-20 minutes  
2 gal. Pot – trickle water for approx 30-40 minutes  
3 gal. Pot – trickle water for approx 40-50 minutes  
4 gal. To 7 gal. – trickle water for approx 60 minutes  
B&B – trickle water for 60-70 minutes  
Remember, if it rains for 1 hr, it probably was not enough water for a newly planted shrub or tree.

## Staking

Unless necessary, trees should not be staked. If your tree or shrub is top heavy or in an exposed area, you may stake the plant to anchor the root ball so roots can develop rapidly into the new soil around the tree. Connect the stakes to the trunk with flexible lines and straps designed for this use. Allow for some movement in the plant for strong growth. Remove the stakes and lines after one growing season so you do not inhibit trunk development.

## Mulching

Add a 2"-3" layer of shredded mulch or chips around the plant. This will prevent water loss and keep mowers and trimmers from getting too close to the plant. Avoid overly deep mulch against the trunk or stem of the plant as this can promote disease or pest injury.

## Maintaining Trees & Shrubs

Long-term maintenance is crucial for your plant to be a prime specimen for many years to come. Fertilize established trees and shrubs in the spring and fall with **Espoma Holly-tone, Plant-tone** or **Tree-tone**. Use **Bonide Annual Tree & Shrub Insect Control** every fall to provide systemic protection from insects. If your plant is fruit bearing, use **Bonide Fruit Tree & Plant Guard** throughout the year to keep your plant insect and disease free. If you spot any abnormalities with the leaves, stems, or branches of your plants, bring us down a sample to evaluate. Ask us your pruning questions. We are always glad to help!

