

PLANTING TIPS



How to plant a new potted plant into your garden

We've put together our top tips to help you to achieve planting success in your garden, saving you time and money. We look at the best time to plant, choosing the right plant for the spot and how to plant a new potted plant. Happy Gardening...

Best time to Plant

The ideal time for planting is when the soil is warm, not too hot and not too cold. autumn is the ideal time, when daytime temperatures have cooled down, but soils are still warm. New plants have time to settle into their new home before winter is underway. Spring is the next best time to plant out, when soils are warming up and plants are keen to grow.

Understand the Planting Spot (Choosing the Right Plant)

Look at where you are planting and think about what you want the plant to do. Select a plant that is well suited to the space in your garden and will perform the required function.

Some things to think about –

- **Mature size.** How big does the plant need to be at maturity? (rather than how big it looks in the pot)
- **Sun/shade.** Some plants need certain hours of sunlight to flower, the leaves of others will burn if they get direct sunlight.
- **Soil type and drainage.** Clay soils tend to hold moisture and nutrients better but can be prone to poor drainage. Sandy soils drain well, but don't hold moisture or nutrients well. Different plants are suited to different soils.
- **Exposure.** Windy spots are not good for soft foliage where leaves can scorch or get torn.
- **Garden space.** Select a plant that matches the available space. Not so large it won't fit between other plants and not so tiny it will be overgrown by neighbours before it gets a chance to establish.

Preparation

Be Nice to your plant

Planting out can be stressful for a plant. Planting techniques aim to minimise stress levels – for you and the plant. Keep your plant well hydrated. Dunking the pot in a water and seaweed solution prior to planting should keep it happy. Ensure the garden soil is moist, too. If it is too dry, moisture will be taken away from your well-prepared root ball. Avoid planting on days that are too hot, cold, wet or windy.

Dig the Hole

Dig a hole roughly twice the width of the root ball and about the same depth as the pot. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole and the sides. Water lightly if the soil seems a bit dry. Resist any temptation to put organic matter or fertiliser in the bottom of the hole.

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Planting Out

From pot to garden

Gently remove your plant from the pot. Spread the palm of your hand over the top of the pot with the stem/trunk between your fingers. Turn the plant upside down and lift the pot away.

Gently soften the soil of the root ball and tease the roots out if in a compacted state, if the roots are crowded cut some away with a garden knife. This will help prevent roots going around in circles once in the ground as well as encourage new roots to penetrate the surrounding soil looking for nutrients and water.

Place your plant in the middle of the hole, ensure the base of the plant stem and top of root ball are level or *slightly* higher than the surrounding soil. Backfill the soil to fill the surrounding hole and gently pat down. Organic matter (e.g garden compost or aged manure) can be added to the upper portions of the backfill.

Watering in

Watering depends on the weather. If it is warm and breezy, more watering will be required. When you do water, be generous so moisture reaches the base of the root ball and good root development is encouraged. Light sprinklings with a hose will only encourage surface roots leaving the plant poorly equipped for drier times.

Finishing Off

Mulch

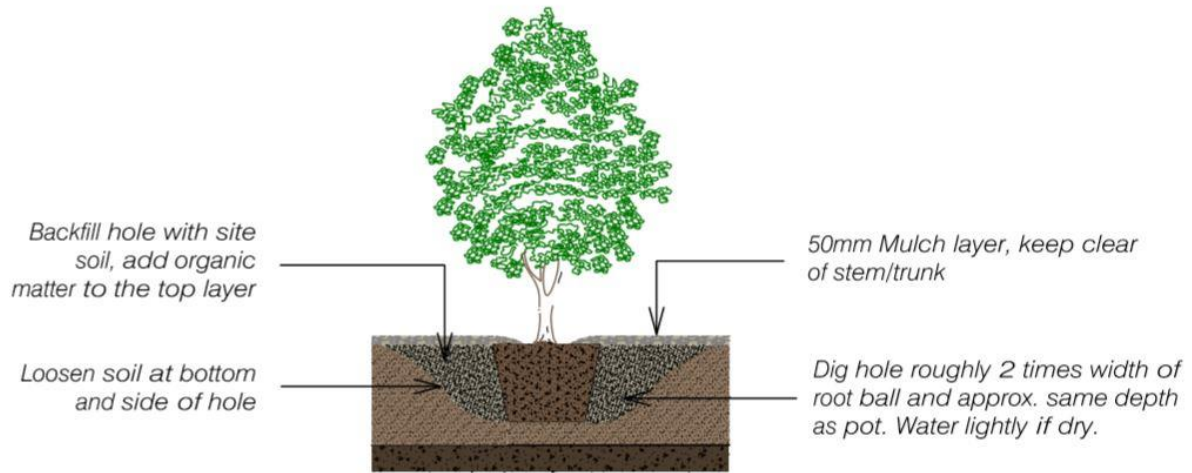
Mulch to a depth of about 50mm. Keep the mulch clear of the stem/ trunk. Mulch will insulate the soil, preventing it from getting too cold in winter and too hot in summer plus it will keep moisture in the soil. As it breaks down, it will add essential organic matter to the soil, keeping your plant happy.

Generally, use an organic mulch. If you live in a high bushfire zone this might need more consideration and think about inorganic mulches next to the house.

Fertiliser

W-a-i-t. Resist fertilising in the first growth season. Wait until the plant is established, otherwise it could stress the plant too much.

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TYPICAL PLANTING - SHRUB