

Planting and Watering Guide

Site Selection

The planting site should provide the proper light, moisture, and drainage for your plant. Plan appropriately for the **mature** height, width, and root structure of each plant. Look up and around to make sure your tree or plant will not interfere with power lines, structures, or other plants as they mature. Call 811 to mark utilities before you dig. We do not recommend planting a new tree within 15 feet of a large tree that has been removed for several years, even if the stump was ground.

Planting

Install your new plants as soon as possible to reduce stress. When it is not possible to plant right away, water thoroughly on a daily basis. If it is root bound, gently loosen the roots and remove excess soil from the top of the root ball.

Dig the hole slightly shallower and several inches wider than the root ball. Save the soil for backfilling the hole. Place the plant in the hole making sure the top of the plant's root ball is one inch higher than the surrounding ground level. Do **not** add any fertilizer or amendments.

Fill in around the roots with the soil you set aside. Gently press the soil to secure the plant and to remove any air pockets. Do **not** put any soil on top of the root ball. Use the excess soil to build a circular berm around the outside of the root ball. After backfilling the hole, give the plant a deep soaking around the base. If necessary, properly stake the plant.

Watering

Our recommended hand-watering technique is to do 3 passes during each watering session to make sure the root ball is fully saturated. The first pass primes the hydrophobic soil, the second pass can then penetrate the soil, and the third pass makes sure water has fully reached the bottom of the rootball. Each pass should be 30-60 seconds. For each pass on trees and shrubs, a hose can be left running at a trickle at the base of the plant for 5-10 minutes.

Follow watering guidelines below. **Supplemental watering may be required for some plants and trees for several years after planting.** Rainfall of ½" replaces one watering. Be aware of local watering restrictions and follow them accordingly.

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4-12
Plants	Everyday	Every other day	2x weekly	1-2x weekly
Trees	Everyday	5x weekly	3x weekly	2x weekly
Sod	Everyday	Every other day	2x weekly	1-2x weekly

Establishment Times

Herbaceous perennials, bunch grasses, ferns, aquatics: 4 weeks to 3 months

Small Shrubs: 6 months to 1 year depending on species

Larger shrubs, palms, and trees: 3 to 6 months per inch of trunk diameter. This is one year or more in most instances.

Exceptions do exist. If in doubt, ask a nursery specialist via email, phone, or in person.

Mulching

Mulch is essential to weed suppression and moisture retention. An organic mat such as thick layers of newspaper, cardboard, or paper barrier to discourage weeds can be added under the mulch. Apply a 2- 3 inch thick layer of environmentally friendly, organic mulch such as Pine Straw, Melaleuca Mulch (Florimulch), or Pine Bark Nuggets up to the edges of the root balls. Avoid Cypress and dyed mulches. Do **NOT** put soil or mulch over the root ball to prevent root suffocation or against the trunk to prevent trunk diseases.

Cold Protection

In the hours before a frost or freeze event, plants should be well watered to help them weather the drying effect of wind and cold temperatures. Allow enough time for the foliage to dry before frost or avoid getting the foliage wet during watering. Be sure to SHUT OFF ALL IRRIGATION for the duration of freezing temperatures to prevent major damage to the plants.

Plants that are not tolerant of frost or freezing temperatures should be taken inside of an enclosure or thoroughly wrapped with an insulating cover, if possible. Note: actual temperature and wind chill should be considered separate issues when determining frost and freeze protections.

After a soft tissue plant has received cold burn, the soft, mushy and damaged tissue should be removed immediately to prevent further decay. Cold burned woody plants should only be cut back to new growth and fertilized **after** the threat of frost or freeze is over.

Fertilizer

Be 'Florida Friendly' and obey fertilizer restrictions intended to prevent fertilizer run-off and pollution to ground and surface water during our wettest months. For Pinellas County, the summer blackout for fertilizer use runs from June 1 to October 1.

Warranty and Returns

All plant sales are final. Plant returns cannot be accepted at this time due to agricultural quarantines within Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Hardgoods have a 7 day return policy from date on receipt.

Shrubs and trees:

Our exclusive 2-YEAR guarantee for a one-time replacement value of 50% of retail price.

Groundcovers, wildflowers, annuals and houseplants:

A 30-day guarantee for a one-time replacement value of 50% of retail price.

All warranties exclude palms, edible fruits and fruit trees, marked-down items, clearance items, succulents, and bromeliads. Installation labor not included.