

WATER

Thoroughly water the soil within all rootballs/containers **BEFORE** planting. It is often difficult to sufficiently moisten a dry rootball once it is placed in the ground.

DIFFERENT CONTAINERS

PLASTIC CONTAINER PLANTS OR PACKS

Remove plastic pot. If roots are firmly packed or encircling the rootball, gently loosen them by breaking apart with your fingertips or by making several shallow vertical cuts, then loosening further with your fingers.

BALLED & BURLAPPED PLANTS

Trees and shrubs that have their rootballs covered by brown or green burlap should be handled gently by the rootball. Do not cut or remove any burlap, ropes or wire cages until the plant has been placed in the hole and has been properly positioned.

Once the soil has been placed around the plant, you **MUST** cut away all ropes and pull back any burlap that encircles the stem. (All of the burlap can be then left in the ground.) Rootballs with wire cage supports should have the upper 6-10" removed with either wire cutters or by bending the wire back and forth repeatedly until it breaks. (The bottom of the wire cage should remain in the hole.)

FILLING THE HOLE

Break up the soil that has been removed from the hole so that it is loose and crumbly. Prepare a backfill mix of 1 part sphagnum peat to 3 parts of existing soil. Thoroughly mix the peat and soil together and begin filling the hole around the rootball, packing lightly as you go. Once the hole is partially filled, you'll want to pull back the burlap, ropes or wire cages at this time (as described above).

Then, apply a liberal amount of water mixed with **Root 'n' Grow Root Stimulator**. Allow the solution to soak in before filling the hole with remaining soil. Next, construct a small rim of soil just beyond the outer edge of the rootball to collect water and direct it down to the roots when watering by hand.

**KEEP YOUR RECEIPT/INVOICE
TO INSURE WARRANTY REQUIREMENTS**

MULCHING

For best results, apply organic mulches such as shredded bark, bark chips, woodchips or pine straw at the specified depth around these plantings:

3 INCHES DEEP around trees, shrubs and evergreens

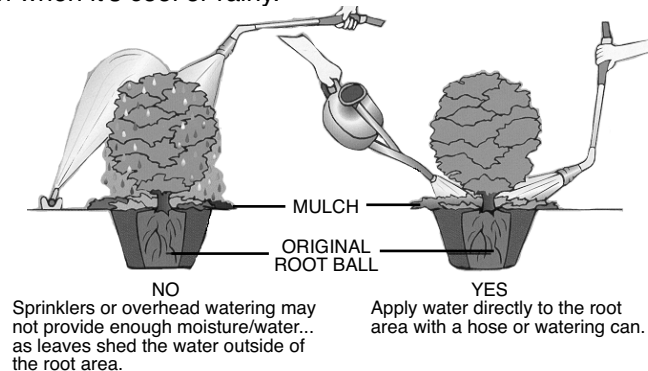
1-2 INCHES DEEP around roses and most perennials

Keep mulches 3-6" away from tree trunks, plant stems or around the base of perennials. For more information on the use of mulch materials, please refer to our **Mulching Guide** (available online).

NOTE: DO NOT mulch around **annuals** as it can inhibit their performance.

WATERING

Watering frequency can vary with plant types and weather conditions. In general, water more often during warm, windy weather and less often when it's cool or rainy.



STAKING

Most larger plants do not need to be staked after planting unless they are placed in a windy location or they are very tall. Our Garden Stores carry a complete line of staking supplies should this process be necessary. Once staked, the plant should be able to move a few inches in all directions. Remove all stakes after one year.

FERTILIZING

We recommend using **Root 'n' Grow Root Stimulator** when planting trees, shrubs, evergreens and perennials. In addition, we recommend the following fertilizers during the growing season to help promote plant vigor. Always follow label directions for rate and timing information.

When planting trees, shrubs and perennials use Root 'n' Grow

Plant Category

ANNUALS
PERENNIALS
TREES & SHRUBS/EVERGREENS
BROADLEAF EVERGREENS
ROSES

Recommended On-going Fertilizers

Better Blooms™ Annual & Houseplant Fertilizer
Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food
Better Blooms™ Perennial, Tree & Shrub Food
Espoma Holly-tone
Bayer Advanced All-In-One Rose & Flower Care
or Espoma Rose-tone