

Planting basics



Choosing the right plant

There are a few key factors to think about when choosing the right plant. Deciduous trees and shrubs will lose their leaves in the fall.

Evergreens do not lose their foliage and stay green year round. It is also important to know the mature size of the plant and if it requires sun or shade and also consider the soil characteristics. Design and personal preference are also important factors to consider when choosing the right plant for your space.

Please consider taking a few pictures of the area you are working on and bring them into Beacon Gardens. Our knowledgeable staff would love to assist you!



Planting:

After choosing the right plant and location, dig a hole 2.5 to 3 times the width of the root ball or container and no deeper than the root ball itself. Planting too deep is unhealthy for the plant and in time, can lead to killing the plant. If your plant is burlapped, cut and strip the burlap from the top of the root ball so that the root flare is exposed. Pull the burlap down towards the side. It is best to remove as much of the burlap as possible. If your plant is in a container and is root bound, scratch up the bottom and sides of the root system to loosen the roots. This can be done with your hands or even your garden pruners. The existing native soil where you are going to plant should be amended with good quality compost. After your new plant is in the hole and you check to make sure it is not planted too deep, backfill with the soil you amended. With any remaining soil, create a small well around the root system and water the plant. The well will ensure water gets to the root system and also helps prevent water runoff. After the plant is watered, mulch at least 2" deep around the base of the plant. Do not mulch the stem or trunk of the plant.



General Water Instructions:

- Water new plants daily, or at least every other day during the first week. After one week, water plants 2-3 times a week until the root system gets established.
- Water slowly and deeply, avoiding runoff.
- Do not rely on sprinkler head irrigation for newly planted material. New plants need more water than established plants. If possible, install a drip line irrigation system. Drip line irrigation allows the plants to properly receive the water.
- Sandy dry soil will need more water. Amending the soil with peat moss will help retain moisture in the soil.
- Soil should never be soggy, as too much water can drown plants.
- Roots need air and water to survive. Before planting, you can fill the hole with water and check to see if the area drains properly.
- Take into consideration weather conditions. 1 inch of rain is considered an adequate watering for plants, but it is best not to rely on Mother Nature for watering your plants.
- Plants will need to be irrigated for at least 2 years before their root system gets properly established.

Beacon Gardens is here to help you with all your planting needs! We also offer on site consultations or would be happy to recommend one of our local landscapers. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

