



Tree & Shrub Summer Time Planting Guide

Many folks have the misconception that planting a tree or shrub in the summer months cannot be done. However, with just a few minor changes and tips, you can successfully plant during the summer season!

The first important step in ensuring the health of your plant is to avoid transporting plants in hot weather unless they are covered and protected from the wind. Once at home and ready to plant, be sure to follow these tips:

- 1) Water your plant while it is still in the container. This will be sure that your plant has adequate moisture during transplant, which helps to avoid plant stress and shock.
- 2) Dig your planting hole twice as wide as the container the plant comes in. The sides of the hole should slope some and be rough, there is no need to smooth them. Have the hole be about 2" shorter than the height of the root ball.
- 3) Fill the planting hole with water and allow it to drain completely. This is a good way to check for decent drainage. The water should drain at minimum within one hour.
- 4) Amend the soil you dug out of the planting hole by mixing it with 1/3 humus material such as Soil Building Compost, Hemlock Bark or BLENDED mint compost. Amending the soil increases drainages and therefore your plants chance of survival.
- 5) Remove the plant from its container and loosen the roots slightly either with your hands or by gently using a shovel head or spade to slice Vertically AT THE ROOT BALL A FEW TIMES. Place the plant into the hole making sure the top of the root ball is 2" higher than your surrounding ground.
- 6) Place your amended soil around the plant and water thoroughly making it the consistency of very wet mud.
- 7) Allow the water to drain away.
- 8) Mix some Ferti-lome Root Stimulator by following the instructions on the label and pour it on the root ball of the plant. The root stimulator will help develop plant roots, especially feeder roots, more quickly thus helping the plant to become more established sooner. * Note: **Be sure to apply ONLY diluted solution to plant. Do not apply directly from bottle. You will need 1 gallon of solution to each gallon size of plants pot. (i.e 2 gallons of solution for a 2 gallon plant)**
- 9) After applying root stimulator rake the soil smooth under the plant, making sure there is no excess soil on top of the root ball. There should however be enough to cover the sides of the root ball adequately.
- 10) Apply 2" of mulch around the plant and just a thin layer under the plant. You may use Hemlock bark, Mint compost, or any type of mulch material. However the use of white rock or red cinder rock is not recommended because it attracts heat during the summer months. Mulch helps keep the roots of the plant cool in summer, warm in winter, holds back weed, and deters pests.

Please feel free to speak with any of our professional nursery staff if you have further planting or hot weather plant questions!