



Planting Fact Sheet

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery

The following information is a quick reference guide for planting your container seedlings. Following these simple steps helps ensure the best chance for success and survival.

Size of Hole

- ❑ Dig a hole two times the diameter size of the container.
- ❑ Do not dig the hole too deep. It is generally better to dig a hole wider and shallower instead of narrow and deeper as roots spread laterally

Planting your Seedling

- ❑ Gently remove your plant from its container. Press the sides of the container to loosen the soil ball and roots. Turn the container upside down to remove plant.
- ❑ Loosen the root mass of the plant either with your hands or a pruner prior to planting to help the roots establish more quickly. This is why you dig a wider hole.
- ❑ Ideally, match the soil height of the plant with the existing grade of the ground in which it is planted.
- ❑ Do not install your plant too deep. It is better to plant a little high as it will settle in the loose soil. Planting too deep covers the root crown of the plant with soil and may kill the plant over time.

Backfilling the Hole

- ❑ Backfill the hole with the soil excavated from the hole, ensuring there are no big clumps of sod or soil. Backfill as to eliminate any air pockets around the plant roots.
- ❑ Gently compress the soil around the plant, but do not over-compress. Over compaction will prevent water from penetrating the soil layer and eliminate important air-pore space.

Watering

- ❑ Water your plant after planting. Apply slowly to allow water to penetrate deeply into disturbed area versus running off with rapid application.
- ❑ Watering needs after planting vary depending on the time of year and site conditions. If able apply supplemental watering during first planting season as necessary to improve survival
- ❑ Remember – it is just as easy to kill a plant with too much water than too little. Too much water can cause root diseases.

Protection

- ❑ If deer or rodents are an issue in your planting area, tree shelters, fencing or other control measures are recommended to give your seedlings the best chance of survival.