

Step #1

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Location Selection

Location can be a big part of determining the success of your plantings. Make sure you put the right plant in the right place. Shade loving plants will not survive in direct sun. Most flowering plants will not survive in the shade. Ask your professional MRT sales associate for help making the right decision.

Step #2

PREPARE A PLANTING



Dig The Hole

Dig the hole twice as wide and the same depth of the container that the plants come in. Place the plant in the hole and be sure that top of the root ball is level or slightly above the surrounding ground

Step #3

REMOVE THE CONTAINER

Carefully remove the container by holding the top of the root ball and gently slide the plant out. If the roots have circled the plant or the root ball is solid roots gently squeeze the root ball prior to planting. Be careful not to disturb the roots too much or the plant will go into shock. Roots that have circled more than one time will need to be cut.

Note: Bougainvilleas should be planted in the container that they come in. Simply cut some holes on the sides about the size of a baseball and cut the lip off of the top.

Note: Some citrus trees will have a fine mesh of very small roots surrounding the root ball. The mesh needs to be cut from top to bottom on 4 sides.



Step #4

FILL THE HOLE

Fill the hole with the planting mix from step 2, packing the soil lightly to remove any air pockets. Soak the soil thoroughly. It is a good idea to put some Milorganite, Fertrell, or any other organic fertilizer of your choice, in the mix as you fill the sides.

Note: Do not put chemical fertilizer in the hole. This will kill the plant. Wait 6 weeks.

Step #5

MULCHING

Be careful not to put mulch, stone or anything else within 6 inches of the trunk. Each plant has small air roots that need to breathe. Covering them can cause fungus problems and death of the plants.

Step #6

FERTILIZER AND FEEDING

We recommend to use Milorganite, Fertrell, or any other organic fertilizer of your choice while the plant is being planted. Milorganite is a non-burning form of Nitrogen. However, it is not strong enough for periodic use, and it lacks the minor elements all plants require.

Florida soils are very sandy and have little to no nutrients. To be successful you must fertilize your new plants, starting 6 weeks after installation, and a minimum of 4 times per year. The general rule of thumb is 1/2 lb. per trunk diameter inch measured from about 3 inches above the ground. Scatter the fertilizer around the plant like salting a steak. Do not pour it in the crown of the plant or mound it around the trunk. Use fertilizers for specific plants, (i.e. Palm fertilizer for Palms, Citrus fertilizer for Citrus etc.). These have the micro nutrients that are lacking in our soils and are needed to keep each type of plant healthy.



WATERING

- New plants need plenty of water. They get watered every day at our nursery. Follow this schedule to help develop a strong root system.
- Water daily for the first month. Water every other day the second month. Water twice a week the third month. *This is an approximate watering schedule. Please check with your MRT sales associate for further information about watering.*
- Water less if it rains and less during the winter. Moisture meters are available for purchase at MRT.
- After the third month, water weekly unless we are in a very dry and hot month. Usually May, June and September.
- Always water in the morning. Plants only need water when the sun is up. If you wait until the plants are wilting they won't grow as well.
- Shaded plants will not need to be watered as much as plants that are in full sun.
- It is best to water plants with a hose because they need a nice deep soaking. It is best to take the squirter off of the hose.
- Hanging baskets and container gardens need to be checked daily. Only water when soil is on the dry side. They will require more water than a plant in the ground.

for online help

University Florida • Department Of Ag

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THE 3 BIG NO NO's

Over the years we have narrowed the list down to the three major mistakes people make.

1

Plants are planted too deep. All plants and trees need to be planted equal to or a little above the surrounding ground. Planting too deep causes the plants to suffocate.

2

Putting a "chemical" fertilizer in the hole. If you have ever put your hand in a bag of fertilizer and it caused a burning sensation, that is from the chemicals in the mix. When plants are first planted they put out new little feeder roots. If you put a straight fertilizer in the hole it will burn the new roots and kill the plant.

3

Air pockets underground. New plants need to be thoroughly watered in to try and get all air pockets out of the hole. If you do not fill the area around the plant and saturate the soil to get the air pockets out, the plants will die. It is best to put a ring of dirt around the plant or tree and fill it with water. While full, gently shake the plant to get the air pockets out.

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