

## *Plant It Right!!*

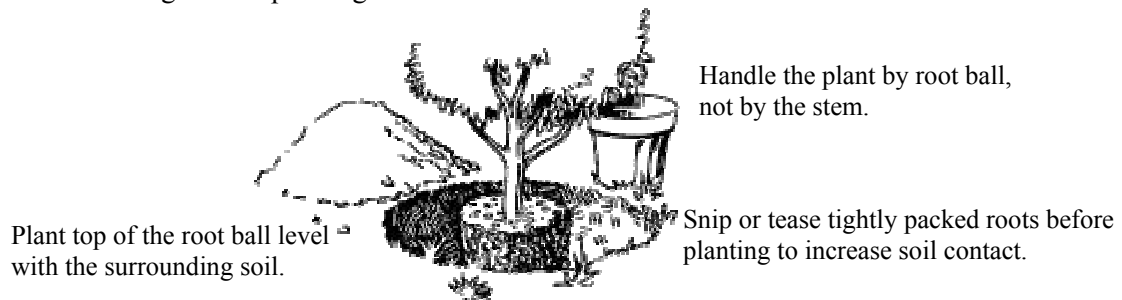
### **A Quick Guide to Proper Planting Techniques for New Trees, Shrubs and Flowers**

**Plant and Site Selection.** Remember the rule of "the right plant for the right place" to maximize plant vigor and health throughout the season. Consider soil, slope, amount of light, space or size, hardiness zone, drainage, exposure, and soil pH. In particular, if the site is naturally dry, select drought-tolerant plants. *Safety first: call before you dig (800-552-7001) to identify underground lines.*

**Plant Spacing.** Don't crowd the plants. Yes, it is small now, but space plants according to their final size.

**Planting Hole.** For both woody and herbaceous plants, the planting hole should be dug 2 to 4 times wider but no deeper than the root ball to be planted. For trees and shrubs, use the soil dug from the hole to refill it – without adding amendments. For planting beds, loosen the soil to a depth of 12 inches. Amend the soil with a 2 to 3-inch layer of organic matter (animal manures, peat moss, compost) that is roto-tilled or mixed into the top 6 inches of the soil.

**Transplanting.** After a balled and burlapped (B&B) tree or shrub is placed in the planting hole at the proper depth, the burlap can be loosened and removed from the top of the root ball. With container-grown woody and herbaceous plants, the root ball should be moist but not wet at the time of planting. Never set the plant too deep in the hole. For trees, the root flare should be level with the edge of the planting hole.



**Fertilizing.** There is no need to fertilize trees and shrubs the first year after transplanting. Use a low level of liquid fertilizer or slow-release granular for herbaceous perennials and most bedding plants.

**Mulching.** Mulch to hold in soil moisture, moderate soil temperatures and reduce weeds. Mulch materials include newspaper, black plastic, landscape fabric, lawn clippings, straw, stone, gravel (3" deep), shredded bark (1" for fine, 2" for coarse) and wood chips (4-6"). If the soil is dry, water it deeply before mulching. Take care to keep mulches from directly contacting the stems of plants.

**Watering.** Most new transplants require about one inch of water per week. New trees and shrubs may need to be watered twice a week for the first month and once a week for the remaining portion of the season. Build a berm of soil around trees and shrubs to direct water into the root ball. Herbaceous plants should be watered 2 to 3 times per week for the first two weeks and then weekly unless they show signs of wilting. Irrigate in the evening or early morning to minimize evaporation. Watering is best done as one deep soaking to wet the soil to a depth of 6-10 inches.

Proper planting will improve your landscape and reduce summer maintenance and water requirements.

*Plant it Right!!* for a fun summer of beautiful gardens.

For more information, visit the VGIC website:

<http://www.viriniagreen.org>

## **Additional Resources for Proper Landscape Planting, Mulching and Irrigation**

Annuals Culture and Maintenance (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-200/426-200.pdf>

Perennials – Culture, Maintenance and Propagation (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-203/426-203.pdf>

Planting Trees (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-702/426-702.pdf>

Planting Shrubs (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-701/426-701.pdf>

Publications List for the Sustainable Landscape Series (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/vagardlist.html>

Planting Landscape Plants (Washington State Univ.)

<http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/eb1505/eb1505.html>

Preparation and Planting of Landscape Plants (Ohio State Univ.)

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/1000/1014.html>

New Tree Planting (International Society of Arboriculturists)

<http://www2.champaign.isa-arbor.com/consumer/planting.html>

Planting Trees in the Landscape (Univ. of Florida)

<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/planting/>

Creating a Water-wise Landscape (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-713/426-713.pdf>

Selection and Use of Mulches and Landscape Fabrics (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-019/430-019.pdf>

Fertilizing Landscape Trees and Shrubs (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-018/430-018.pdf>

Xeriscaping: a Guide to Developing a Water-wise Landscape (Univ. of Georgia)

<http://www.ces.uga.edu/pubcd/B1073.htm>

Drought Resources (Univ. of Maryland)

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/HotTopics/Drought/>

Drought Tips (Univ. of Maryland)

[http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/drought\\_tips.html](http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/drought_tips.html)

Xeriscaping and Conserving Water in the Landscape (Univ. of Maryland)

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/pubs/online/hg25.pdf>

Drought and the Landscape Garden (Penn State Univ.)

[http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages\\_reference/29401/2940156.html](http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages_reference/29401/2940156.html)

Flower Management Before, During, and Following Drought (Colorado State Univ.)

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Flowers/drought5.htm>

Woody Plant Management Before, During and Following Drought (Colorado State Univ.)

<http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/CoopExt/4DMG/Trees/drought6.htm>

Links for Landscape Irrigation Information (Utah State Univ.)

<http://extension.usu.edu/drought/landscape.cfm>

Drought Information (Univ. of Massachusetts)

[http://www.umassdroughtinfo.org/home\\_and\\_garden.html](http://www.umassdroughtinfo.org/home_and_garden.html)

Make the Most of Available Water When Planting New Trees and Shrubs this Spring (Univ. of Connecticut)

<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/SpecialFeatures/Drought.htm>

## **Lists of Drought Tolerant Plants**

Annuals for Hot, Dry Summers (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

[http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/articles/herbaceous\\_plants/sumannl.html](http://www.ext.vt.edu/departments/envirohort/articles/herbaceous_plants/sumannl.html)

Trees for Problem Landscape Sites: Wet and Dry Sites (Virginia Cooperative Extension)

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-026/430-026.pdf>

Drought Resources (Univ. of Maryland)

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/HotTopics/Drought/>

Xeriscaping and Conserving Water in the Landscape

<http://www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/pubs/online/hg25.pdf>

Drought and the Landscape Garden (Penn State Univ.)

[http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages\\_reference/29401/2940156.html](http://www.penpages.psu.edu/penpages_reference/29401/2940156.html)

Drought Information (Univ. of Massachusetts)

[http://www.umassdroughtinfo.org/home\\_and\\_garden.html](http://www.umassdroughtinfo.org/home_and_garden.html)

Xeriscaping: a Guide to Developing a Water-wise Landscape (Univ. Georgia)

<http://www.ces.uga.edu/pubcd/B1073.htm>

Waterwise Landscaping (Utah State Univ.)

<http://extension.usu.edu/publica/gardpubs/waterwis.pdf>

Bayer Lawn and Garden

<http://www.bayeradvanced.com/map/>