



## Planting Instructions

### STEP 1: Prepare planting area

- Dig the hole approximately twice as wide as the diameter of the root ball. The hole should be at least as deep as the root ball, or slightly more (loose soil for roots to push into is better than compacted layers of soil).

### STEP 2: Prepare plant material

- Remove plant from the container (turn over and gently tap, or carefully cut the pot off)
- If roots are girdling (roots circle around soil ball and appear tightly matted)- use a knife or pruners to carefully make 4 slices from top to bottom of the root ball (visualize as an "x" or "+"). Cuts should not be deep (~1/2" or less) and roughly equal distance apart
- If roots are not girdling-use your fingers to gently loosen the soil in the root ball, this will encourage roots to push outwards. DO NOT remove all soil from root ball.
- Place plant in hole. For larger plants such as shrubs and trees, be conscientious of how they are oriented when placed (what side do you want to look at?)
- With plant in hole, approximately 1/8 of the root ball should be above soil level, adjust accordingly

### STEP 3: Planting

- Backfill the sides with a mixture of 2/3 soil from the hole and 1/3 organic matter (leaf gro, mulch, compost, peat moss, etc.). **\*\*NOTE\*\*** when planting trees it is suggested that a minimum of organic matter be incorporated into the backfill.
- DO NOT PLANT TOO DEEPLY. Remember, 1/8 of the root ball should be above the surrounding soil level.
- Tamp the soil firmly around the root ball, eliminating all air pockets.

### STEP 4: Finishing

- If you choose to fertilize, do so using an organic, or slow release fertilizer.
- If you choose to mulch, cover with a 1" layer over the root ball and 2-3" over the rest of the planting area. Keep mulch away from the trunk or stem.
- WATER, and monitor regularly! The biggest culprit in the death of new plantings almost always has to do with the lack of/excess watering.