

# Caring For Container Trees, Shrubs & Plants

Tips for planting and watering



## Care Tips

Container landscape plant material offers a wide selection of plant choices and sizes. Container plants are convenient for the homeowner to transport and plant. If the container plant material is not planted immediately after purchase, it needs to be properly cared for with adequate water and placed in a protected spot out of the wind and sun.

## Planting Guideline

Dig a hole twice the width of the plants root ball. Make the hole no deeper than the depth of the root ball. The roots on container plants are often very constricted or root bound. It is necessary to open the tight root ball for the plant to thrive. Use a knife to cut into the root ball. Make the cuts into the soil and through the roots much like you would cutting a pie. Make the cuts at least 1/2"-3/4" deep. Take your hands and loosen the roots so that the new feeder roots can develop into the surrounding soil. Failure to do this will result in a very slow establishing plant or a "root girdled" plant that will strangle itself and die.

The excavated soil needs to be mixed with perlite and compost. Use 1/3 perlite, 1/3 compost, and 1/3 existing soil. Plants such as rhododendron, hydrangea, azalea, boxwood, and holly will require a mixture of 1/4 perlite, 1/4 compost, 1/4 peat moss, and 1/4 existing soil. The perlite will aid in drainage and prevent soil compaction. The compost will enrich the clay soil and encourage earthworm activity. Myke Tree & Shrub Transplanter or Myke Annual & Perennial Transplanter can be applied to the root ball of the plants. Myke is a product containing beneficial fungi called mycorrhizae. These mycorrhizae allow the plant to better use fertilizers and water. We also recommend 2"-4"

layer of wood mulch around the root zone. Keep mulch 2" back from stems or branches of the plants. Water the plant with a mixture of Superthrive, a very concentrated vitamin/hormone that encourages fast development of fine feeder roots. These feeder roots allow the plant to pull moisture and nutrients from the soil.

## Watering Guidelines

Lanoha Nurseries container stock is planted in a very lightweight porous mix. It can dry out quickly and requires frequent watering. When you install these plants into your landscape, it is necessary to water directly into the center of the plant. If you rely on a sprinkler system to water, the lush foliage that overhangs the root ball will deflect the water onto the soil around the plant and leave the plant's root ball completely dry. The best way to test moisture is to probe down into the root ball area with a long metal rod or screwdriver. If mud adheres, then the root ball is moist enough. If no soil adheres, then the plant needs moisture. The plant cannot pull water from the soil for several weeks after planting, so you must be sure the root ball is kept moist. The exceptions are yews which should dry thoroughly between deep infrequent watering.



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