# Lichtenfelt's GardenGuide

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## **How to Plant Trees and Shrubs**

- · Water plant thoroughly while still in its pot.
- Remove plant from pot, either by tipping on its side or gently sliding the pot down and away from the rootball. If roots form a solid mass, make 3 vertical cuts in the ball with pruners or a saw, about 2" into the root ball. This encourages roots to grow out of the root ball and into the surrounding soil.
- Dig hole twice as wide and 2" shallower than the root ball. The sides of the hole should be straight down, not angled inward.
- Add the proper amount of Soil Amendment (see back) into the hole. Toss in the native soil dug from the planting hole and mix together.
- Shovel the newly-amended soil out of the hole and set plant in hole. Backfill soil around the plant, leaving top of the root ball visible.
- TOP OF REDIFICALL
  2" ABONE GROUND LEVEL

  a

  SALCER RIM
  3"-4" ABOVE
  GROUND LEVEL

  HOLE DIAMETER 2X

  ROOTBALL DIAMETER
- Leave the planting mix loose. DO NOT tamp it down with your hands or feet. The water from your garden hose will settle the mix around the root ball.
- Use the excess planting mix to build a 3-4" high berm or dam around the outside edge of the hole, making a "saucer" to hold water from your garden hose.
- Cover the root ball with pine needles or with no more than 1" of mulch. DO NOT mulch all the way to base of the plant.
- Use a garden hose to fill up the saucer 2-3 times or count to 30 (to 60 for plants larger than 5 gallons) if the water soaks in quickly and never fills the saucer.

## **How to Water**

- Water your plant with a garden hose. Sprinklers or drip irrigation systems often do not soak root balls deeply enough. If planting between March and August, follow the instructions below through mid-October, or until the weather is cool.
- At planting, be sure to construct a "saucer" around the plant so water soaks into the root ball and does not run off.
- Using a garden hose, count to 30 (to 60 for plants larger than 5 gallons).
- If planting in SUMMER, water this way NO MORE THAN 2-3 times a week.
- If planting in EARLY SPRING or LATE FALL, water this way NO MORE THAN 2 times a week.
- If planting in WINTER, water this way just once a week.

# **How to Fertilize**

- · We offer options for both traditional and organic fertilizing.
  - Organic products for slow release, no-burn fertilization
  - Nelson's Plant Food offerings like ColorStar for heavy feeders and Tree & Shrub for all other plants
- · Check out our full line of fertilizers, soil amendments, and other hard goods at www.lichtenfelts.com/fertilize
- Our organic Mushroom Compost not only feeds plants, it attracts earthworms the more earthworms in the soil around your plants, the happier your plants!

# **Soil Amendments We Recommend and Why**

### **Mushroom Compost**

We know, it DOES smell pretty bad - BUT THE PLANTS LOVE IT and we haven't found anything to match it! This mixture of fully-composted chicken litter, wheat straw, cottonseed meal, gypsum, and lime has been used to grow one crop of mushrooms. When the mushrooms are harvested, the soil is fully composted, then bagged and sent straight to us. Not only does mushroom compost feed plants, it's also a favorite of earthworms - and the more earthworms in the soil around your plants, the happier your plants will be!

We sell only the REAL STUFF. Beware of products sold as "mushroom soil" which are mostly pine bark fines and sand.

#### **Soil Conditioner**

In our area, plants fail to thrive as often from sitting in soggy clay soil as from drought!

Our soil conditioner is fully-composted pine bark - the very best product for breaking up red clay, allowing excess water to drain away from plants. (We discourage the use of peat moss for planting in red clay. It holds too much water and prevents good drainage.)

#### **How to Use**

A planting mixture of 1/3 native soil, 1/3 mushroom compost, and 1/3 soil conditioner can't be beat!

You'll need one bag of our mushroom compost and one bag of our soil conditioner for every:

8 1-gallon plants, or

4 3-gallon plants, or

1 15-gallon plant or larger, or

10 square feet of bed space for bedding plants.

# **Quick Tips and FAQ's**

- Some of the larger trees we offer are "balled & burlapped," meaning they were field grown, dug, and wrapped in burlap. DO NOT remove the burlap or disturb the root ball when planting. Instead, plant as directed on the front of the GardenGuide, leaving the top of the root ball visible. Once planting is complete, cut the string wrapped around the trunk and pull back the burlap or cut away a 6" diameter section around the base of the plant. All other care is the same as container-grown material.
- Some plants have a less vigorous root system than many other varieties stocked here at the nursery. Because of this, it is important that you DO NOT break up the root ball as normally done with other plants. Instead, carefully remove the pot, supporting the trunk/foliage as you do so. Then, simply set the plant into the planting hole and pull the loose amended soil around the root ball. Examples of such material include abelia, dogwood, loropetalum, pittosporum, oakleaf hydrangea, and a few others. If unsure, feel free to ask one of our knowledgable staff.
- Pruning is one of the most discussed topics in the gardening world. We've developed an "All About Pruning" handout on this subject see our Resource Page online or speak to a team member in-store for a printed copy.
- Need more help than this guide offers? We have the resources you need to garden successfully for years to come. We
  offer handouts in-store and online on topics like Native Gardening, Plants for Wet Sites, Pollinator Gardening, Hedging
  and Screening, Ornamental & Shade Tree Selection, and much more. Check out the Resource Page online or see a
  team member in-store for a printed copy.

# **Commitment to Quality**

We stand behind the quality of our plants and make every effort to ensure that your purchase is healthy and true to its name. We'll help you find the right plant for the right place and give you advice to make your garden successful.

## **Our Warranty**

If your tree or shrub doesn't survive for twelve months, we ask that you return the dead plant along with your receipt and we will give you a store credit for 50% of your purchase price. Annuals, herbaceous perennials, and tropicals are not covered under this warranty.

## **Returns and Exchanges**

If a plant you purchased is not quite right or you bought too many, you may return it within 7 days for the right one or a refund. We ask that you return the plant in the same condition in which it was purchased (and unplanted) along with your receipt.