

# HARRIS® SEEDS

## BAREROOT PERENNIALS, FRUIT, SHRUB AND FLOWER BULBS: GENERAL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Soil preparation is important. Dig soil to the depth of a spading fork (twice as deep is better), apply plenty of organic matter (manure, compost or sphagnum peat moss), and mix thoroughly. Mulching in summer will help keep the soil moist and cool and prevent weeds while winter mulch will help prevent heaving of plants during periods of alternate freezing and thawing.

### **Flower Bulbs**

Flower bulbs thrive in well-drained soil. The general rule is to plant bulbs twice as deep as their height. Smaller bulbs should be planted fairly close together (3-4") while larger bulbs should be approximately 5" apart. After planting, water the area well. The main requirement for bulb flowers is to let the foliage die back naturally. This process will take about 6 weeks. Bulbs need this period to regenerate and gather their strength for next year's flowering period.

### **Bare Root Perennials**

Perennial plants come back year after year and most require very little care at all. The #1 reason perennials fail to perform is due to improper planting depth. Most plants should be planted so the topmost roots are barely covered at the surface and even with the surrounding soil. A very light (1/2-1") organic mulch may be used for moisture retention and appearance, but is not essential. Your newly set plants will require regular watering for the first couple of weeks after planting. Also, if the weather is extremely hot or sunny at the time of planting, shading them for a few days will reduce wilting and get them off to a good start.

### **Bare Root Fruits and Shrubs**

Choosing a proper planting site is the first step for successful planting of fruits and shrubs. Most require full sun to partial shade and plenty of room for mature growth. Some common planting errors are choosing a site that is too close to a house foundation or spacing the plants too close together. If you desire a hedge, then planting so the plants grow together is best.

In all cases dig a hole large enough to encompass the roots without bending or circling. Set the plant in place so the crown (part of the plant where the root meets the stem) is about 1" below the soil surface. Add generous amounts of compost, but no fertilizer when planting. Cover with soil to the original soil surface and water thoroughly. Your newly set plants will require regular watering for the first couple of weeks after planting. Continue to monitor the plants and water as necessary throughout the growing season.

rev. 3/2015

**HARRIS® SEEDS**

355 Paul Road P.O. Box 24966 Rochester, NY 14624-0966  
p: (800) 544-7938 f: (877) 892-9197 growers@harriseseeds.com www.harriseseeds.com