

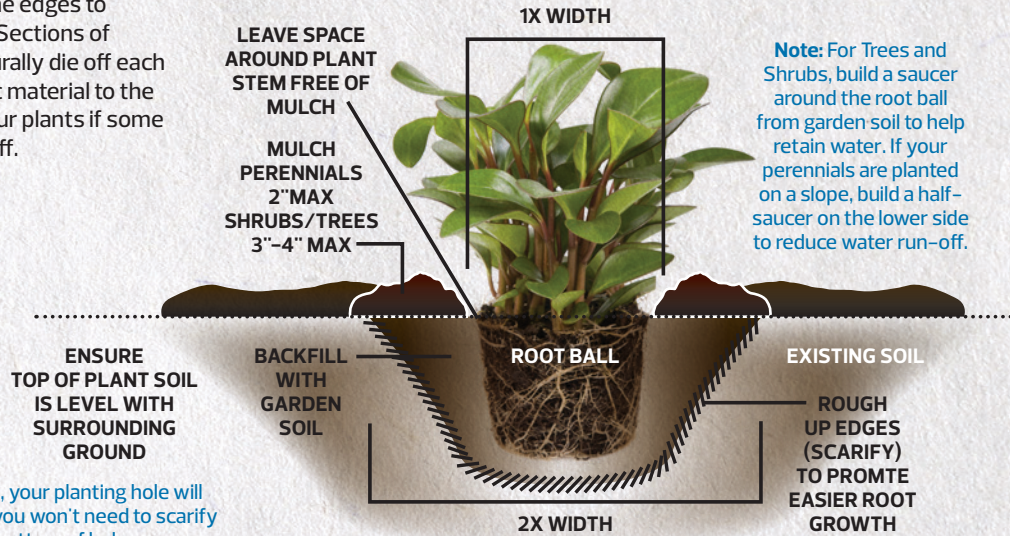


## STEP 2

### PLANTING

# How to Plant

1. Ensure that your new plants are well-watered while they wait to be put in the ground.
2. Dig a hole to the same depth that the plants are planted in their containers.
3. Make lines or hatches into the sides and bottom of the hole. Smooth slick edges are more difficult for roots to move into. Skip this step for plugs; the holes will be too small to achieve this.
4. Some plants get root bound in their pots. This is when roots grow in a tangled mass following the shape of the pot. Untangle the roots by loosening them with your fingers/tickling them so they grow outwards into the surrounding soil rather than continuing in their circular pattern, which will eventually cause the plant to die. Some tougher roots can be sliced with a knife along the edges to break up the mass. Sections of perennial roots naturally die off each year, adding organic material to the soil, not harming your plants if some of the roots break off.
5. Place the plant in the hole. If you dug the hole too deep, meaning that the crown of the plant (where the above ground part of the plant meets the roots) is lower than the surrounding ground, add some soil to the bottom of the hole to raise the plant level. For shrubs and trees, especially, be aware of facing the nicest side (branch structure varies around the plant) toward the primary view of the plant.
6. Add soil (the existing from your planting bed) into the empty space and firmly press the soil around the plant down. Do not cover the soil level that the plant grew in as this will stress your plant by reducing the amount of oxygen the roots are accustomed to getting.
7. Water your new plants slowly and deeply. This will help settle the soil around the root ball by removing the large air pockets.
8. Add **mulch**. Around perennials limit depth to 2 inches. Around shrubs and trees, a 3 to 4 inch application is appropriate. Do not bury the plant crown; pull mulch back from plant stems after it's in place. This is so moisture is not held against the stem, which can lead to rot and disease.
9. For small seedlings, it may be useful to add a plant label into the ground so that you do not confuse it for a weed during establishment.
10. Make sure that new plants do not dry out while establishing by keeping root balls moist but be careful not to overwater. Unless they are wet condition preferring plants, they do not want to be soggy.



**Note:** If planting plugs, your planting hole will not be 2X as wide and you won't need to scarify the edges or bottom of hole.

## NATURAL YARDS