

Gardening Tips...

B e r r i d g e N u r s e r i e s

Summer Planting Guide

Summers in Phoenix present some special challenges for planting and gardening. By paying attention to proper watering and planting methods you can successfully install most trees, shrubs and seasonal bedding plants anytime during the summer

Planting

After selecting your tree or shrub, it must be planted correctly to reach it's full potential. Dig a hole one and a half to two times the size of the container that the plant came in. In very poor soils, we recommend that you mix some gypsum and sulphur into the bottom of the hole to insure good drainage.

In warm weather it is advisable to fill the hole with water and allow the water to soak in prior to planting. This will prevent the dry, surrounding soil from "sponging" away the important first watering.

Mix the original soil half and half with garden compost, and backfill the hole with this mixture into the hole up to the depth of the rootball of your hole. Carefully set the plant into the hole and check the level of the top of the soil. Be sure to leave several inches between the top of the rootball and the original soil level to create a recessed water well. Fill in the sides of the hole with the soil mulch mixture, packing the soil firmly around the rootball and eliminating any possible air pockets.

Watering

Immediately after planting, fill the basin with water and let soak in. Fill a second time and include Superthrive, Vitamin B1 or Root Stimulator to help prevent transplant shock and to give your plant a boost to get started. Continue to water every day for the first week, making sure that you give it enough water to soak the entire rooting area. The second week, water every other day, the third week, every third day and so on until your plant is being deeply watered once per week for the first year. During the hottest days, it might be necessary to water more frequently to compensate for evaporation. Remember... always water deeply and after the ground starts to hold water, allow the plant to dry a little between waterings.

Given enough water at planting time, most plants will establish themselves very well during the hot summer months. If a new plant is allowed to dry out, a quick death from dehydration or shock will be the result of your hard work.