

# PLANTING GUIDE

*Although perennials tend to cost more initially, they are a good long-term investment, providing many years of enjoyment.*

The blooms and leaves of perennials die back during winter and new growth appears the following spring. Many are tough and undemanding, seeming to thrive on neglect. Others may need to be pruned and divided regularly to maintain their vigor and keep them tidy. Either way, they add beauty and variety to your garden with a minimum of effort. Planting perennials that are native to our region offers the additional benefit of creating a welcoming habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects.

## Successful Planting Step-by-Step

**Step 1 - Prepare the planting site.** Healthy soil promotes healthy plants. Adding organic matter to the soil creates a vibrant, nutrient rich environment in which plants can thrive. However, do not add synthetic granular fertilizer as it can burn the tender new roots. We recommend Bio-Tone Starter Plus for new plantings.

When digging the hole, focus on making it at least **twice as wide as the container, but only as deep as the soil level in the container.**

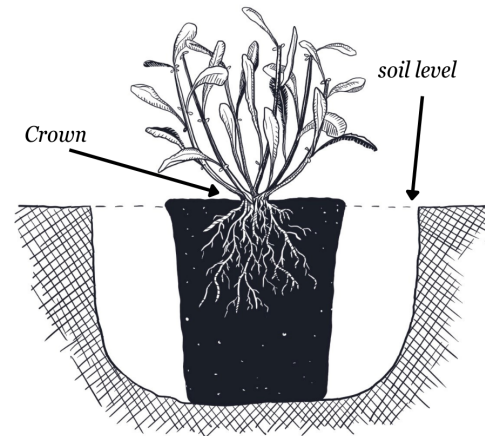
Most perennials have their roots near the surface of the soil and don't really go down very far. Digging too deep a hole or even loosening the soil in the bottom of the hole can cause the plant to sink too deep after it is watered. Over the winter, water will collect in the low spot and potentially rot the crown.

**Step 2 - Plant.** To remove a perennial from its container, put your fingers over the crown of the plant and tip the pot. If the plant doesn't slide out, gently squeeze the sides of the pot and try tipping it out again, or hold the plant upside down and gently tap the

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bottom of the pot. If you see roots circling the pot, loosen them with your fingers so they will spread out into the soil.

Set the plant into the hole with its crown (where the roots and the stems meet) at soil level. Never bury a plant deeper than its crown. Backfill the hole and tamp down gently to remove any air pockets.



**Step 3 - Water.** Water well with a soft trickle of water that is sufficient to saturate the root ball.

## Watering Requirements

A good rule of thumb is to provide an inch of water every week. It is important to provide water throughout the growing season, especially in the first year.

A thin layer of organic mulch will help conserve moisture, as well as improve soil health. Be sure to keep mulch away from the crown of the plant.