

Okay, I bought a native plant. Now what? How to Plant and Grow Your Native Plant.

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1. When you arrive home with your plant, look at it closely and feel the soil. If the soil is dry, add water to the soil until it is slightly damp to the touch. Try your best to water the actual soil and keep the leaves as dry as possible.

2. Look to see if your plant has any dried brown leaves or if the stem looks bent or broken anywhere. Remove the brown or broken portion of the plant.

3. If you are not going to plant immediately, store your plant in a location that has the same to slightly less light than your plant requires. Remember, a plant that requires full sun needs six or more hours of direct sun per day to thrive. A part sun plant requires four to six hours of sun per day. A full shade plant needs less than four hours of sunlight per day.

4. When planting day arrives, take the plant out of its pot and observe the root ball. If the roots are very tight and dense, break up the root ball with your hands or a knife in order to promote root expansion into the surrounding ground.

5. Dig a hole a few inches wider and deeper than the size of the root ball. Break up the soil that you just dug up so that it is loose with no chunks. Place



the root ball into the hole and surround it with the loose soil so that all roots are covered and the plant is fully supported. Lightly press the soil to eliminate any air pockets in the soil surrounding the plant.

6. Water the soil surrounding the plant thoroughly. Again, try your best to water the actual soil while keeping the leaves as dry as possible. Monitor the plant several times per day and water again when the soil is dry. Continue to monitor and water for several weeks. After the first few weeks, you shouldn't need to continue to water the plant unless there is very dry weather.

7. Continue to monitor the plant every week or so to make sure it is healthy and thriving.

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