

Shrub Planting & Care Guide

Planting Your Shrubs

1. Amend the soil.
2. Tilling existing soil will make it easier to dig your holes and allow for better aeration around the root system after your shrub has been planted.
3. Mix in compost, enhanced topsoil, soil conditioner, or potting soil for extra nutrients.
4. Place shrubs (still in pots) in the bed and arrange them how you would like them to be displayed after planting.
5. Dig a hole about as deep as the pot, and triple the size of the pot's width.
6. Break up the root system with your hands or small shovel to encourage the roots to grow out and down, not in a circle.
7. It is important not to bury too deep or too tightly (do not cover branches or trunk); be gentle while packing the soil around the plant.
8. Make sure all roots are covered with soil.
9. Cover the base with a layer of mulch to encourage water retention.
10. Water in the shrub(s).
11. Save the tag from each plant and keep a notebook where you write down exactly where you planted it, the year, and any other information you want to remember. This makes a great plant record for your home.

Watering

1. Only water the base of the plants; water as close to the soil/root system as possible.
2. Overhead watering may cause the blooms and/or foliage to rot, become sunburnt, and may block the water from reaching the root system altogether.
3. Water every day (depending on plant variety and weather conditions). Give each plant an extra amount especially during the hottest days of the season.
4. You can hand-water with a hose or watering can, however, with larger beds, it is more efficient to purchase a soaker hose and run it for 20-30 minutes a day (weather depending).

Fertilizing

1. Depending on the fertilizer variety, it is good to fertilize plants once a month.
2. Never fertilize more than what is recommended on the fertilizer packaging.
3. If the plants are over-fertilized, it can cause them to die.

Pruning

1. Most shrubs will need to be dead-headed or pruned after the blooms are spent.
2. Pruning the spent bloom is done nearest to the base of the shoot/branch.
3. Some shrubs may need to be pruned mid-summer to encourage blooming, better airflow, and for aesthetic reasons.

Winter Preparation for Shrubs

1. It is best to plant shrubs before the end of October.
2. Depending on variety, some shrubs can be cut to the base while others may only allow for 3-6" from branch tips. When in doubt, please check the directions for your specific shrub variety.
3. Cover plants with mulch or leaves for extra insulation.
4. We offer yearly maintenance programs to keep your shrubs optimally trimmed at the right time of year. Contact us if you are interested in learning more!



