

TIPS FOR TRANSPLANTING

PLANTS

1 Remove your transplant from the plastic pot by flipping the plant over into your hand, while cupping the soil with your palm and fingers.

TIP: Be gentle, and NEVER pull it out from the stem.

2 Inspect the roots. If they are wrapping around the outside of the root ball, gently loosen them so they grow in the right direction.

TIP: Avoid breaking or tearing the roots, unless there are so many that almost no soil remains. When roots are bound like this, the plant will not grow correctly unless you loosen the bound roots.

3 You can plant in a pot, hanging basket, or a garden bed. Just remember to give your transplant enough space both above and below the soil to grow as big as it needs to. Dig a hole at least two times wider than your transplant's original pot. This will help loosen the soil and give your roots room to grow.

TIP 1: Make sure the soil level of your transplant and garden soil are on the same level.

TIP 2: Water your plant in. Water only as often as it takes to keep the soil slightly moist. To test, stick your finger an inch deep into the soil. If you feel moisture, don't water. If it feels dry, water gently until the soil is saturated again.



PLANT CARE

SOIL: Add 1-3 inches of compost on the top of the soil to boost levels of organic matter then cover your soil. You can cover the soils with mulch, grass, hay, wood chips, or even rocks, but always try to keep soil covered. This step encourages soil diversity, adds nutrients, helps retain moisture, insulates soil against heat, cold and soil erosion.

LIGHT: Not everything needs to be grown in full sun. Allowing your plants a little shade in the afternoon can be beneficial and can reduce stress and evaporation especially during the summer. Note, that vegetables will sometimes decrease in size as shade increases.

WATER: Do not water every day. Your plants may die from overwatering (rot, fungal disease), and you may exhaust yourself. Remember, as levels of mulch and compost increase water requirements will decrease. Water the soil not the leaves and try to water in the morning.

FERTILIZER: When growing in a container or hanging basket, fertilizer will wash out of your soil quicker. Try to avoid this by watering more sparingly and increasing water retention. When you do fertilize, use a product made from natural ingredients – such as manure, worm castings, fish emulsion, kelp - rather than one that is chemically derived. Remember that chemical or synthetic products can add harmful salts to your soil, kill good soil microbes and burn organic matter.

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