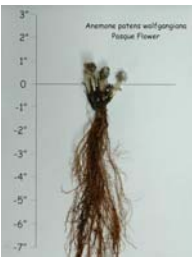


PRAIRIE MOON NURSERY

INSTALLING YOUR NATIVE PLANTS



Arrival of Shipment Our plants come to you bare-root, packed in peat moss. They should be planted as soon as possible. Unlike greenhouse container grown plants, bare-root plants can be planted during cold weather. Planting can be done any time the soil is not frozen.

Storage Until Planting If you can not plant right away, it is important to keep the roots cool and moist (not wet). Do not allow roots to dry out. Store them in a refrigerator (34-38° F) or in a cool, shady spot before planting. Warmer temperatures promote premature growth or mold in the bag.



Mark Your Plants Note that each bag is shipped with a temporary paper label applied to an aluminum tag. Use this tag as a long term identification marker after planting. Emboss the plant name in to the aluminum by writing on it with a hard tipped pen. Tagging will aid in identifying and locating your plants to water and observe. More of these tags can be purchased at www.prairiemoon.com.

Site Preparation & Planning Remove all perennial and biennial weeds and grasses. Existing weeds will compete with new plants for water, sun and nutrients. A more natural appearance will be achieved if plants are grouped by species or scattered randomly as opposed to planting in rows. Large plants (3½' tall or more) need a spacing of 1½' to 2', medium size plants need 1' to 1½' , small plants need 6" to 1'.

Planting Try to plant on a cool, overcast day, if possible. Keep the plants shaded and in a bucket with some water while planting. This is especially important with fibrous roots and for all roots on sunny days. It can be beneficial to soak tree and shrub roots up to 12 hours.

Small Areas For a small number of transplants or when working in a flower bed situation, prepare the soil by loosening it with a fork, spade, or roto tiller. Make a hole wider and deeper than the largest root. Hold the transplant at the proper depth (see line drawings or root photo) and backfill hole with dirt, packing firmly as you do. Be careful not to break buds or roots.

Water thoroughly.

Large Areas For a large number of transplants try working with a trowel, shovel or planting bar. Depending on the size of the roots, open a 6-7" deep slot in the soil. Spread out the roots and insert the plant into the soil slot. Position the crown at the appropriate depth (see line drawings or root photo). Then use the trowel, shovel, or planting bar to create a second slot about 2" from the original hole. Now push the soil in between against the roots. Finally, firmly push next to the plant with your heel (being careful not to crush the crown) this should finish closing the slot. This method works especially well for strong roots like tap roots and bulbs. Be aware that roots that are exposed and not well anchored may not survive.

Growth in the Bag If you are receiving your plants later in the spring they may have some new growth, which will straighten out as the plant grows. Follow the recommended planting depths.

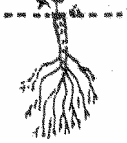
Watering Water your transplants thoroughly as soon as possible after planting. If you are planting into a large area, stop periodically to water what you've already planted. This is especially important on warm, sunny or windy days. Your plants will overcome transplant shock more effectively if they are watered thoroughly at frequent intervals for the first few weeks. If planting in moist soil in the fall or early spring, continued watering may not be necessary unless drought conditions are experienced. Late spring plantings may need to be watered throughout the first summer. Consider setting up an irrigation system or drip hose. Mulching can be very helpful with retaining soil moisture. Be sure to leave an opening for the plants crown to emerge.

Our plants can be divided into categories with slightly different planting needs:

ROOT PHOTOS: Most of our plant species have root photos that have been provided with your shipment. You can find them with your packing slip on the outside of your box. The appropriate planting depth is shown. If an accompanying photo was not provided, then choose from the following five categories. (Root photos are also available on our web at www.prairiemoon.com.) Examples:



Tap Root - Plants with tap roots have a long, tapering root system with few branches. The growing top or "crown" on tap-rooted plants should be planted no less than 1" below the soil surface. It is better to plant a little too deep than too shallow (e.g., *Echinacea angustifolia*).



Fibrous Root With Crown At Soil Surface - These plants are usually identified by the presence of last year's top growth and should be planted with this old growth right at the soil surface. If no leaves are present, then cover about 1/2 to 1" (e.g., *Fragaria virginiana*).



Fibrous Root With Crown Below Soil Surface - Most of our plants that do not keep top growth should be planted with their growing buds about 1/2 to 1" below the soil surface. Again, it is better to plant too deep than too shallow (e.g., *Aster umbellatus*). **NOTE:** Dodecatheon species should be planted with the bud (not leaves) 1" deep and the roots splayed horizontally.



Rhizomatous - Plants that are propagated by rhizomes should be planted with these "runners" spread horizontally, approximately 1" below the soil surface (e.g., *Juncus torreyi*).



Bulbous Root - These plants produce fleshy, underground storage organs, much like a potato or tulip, and should be planted at a depth of about 3 times the diameter of the bulb (e.g., *Jack-in-the-Pulpit*). Some exceptions are: Wild Hyacinth - bottom of bulb 4" deep, Yellow Star Grass - bottom of bulb 1-1/2" deep, and Blazing Stars - 2 times the diameter.

Ferns - All ferns should be planted shallowly, approximately 1/2" below soil surface, except for the Ostrich Fern, which keeps its scaly growing top above the soil surface. Keep ferns well watered the first year.

Cactus - We sell unrooted pads which should be planted with the cut end into the soil, buried up to about 1/2 of the length of the pad.

Trees, Shrubs and Vines - These should be planted at the same depth as they were grown in the nursery. The soil level is usually indicated on the stem where the color changes from a lighter brown to a darker brown.

Grasses, Sedges and Rushes - Most are planted with the crown just below the soil surface.

Further Care Keep your plants well weeded. Providing shade or partial shade for a couple weeks after planting is helpful for early growing species, especially if they have new leaves when you receive them. Examples include: Pasque Flower, Columbine, Harebell, Shooting Stars, Prairie Smoke, Phlox, Buttercups, and Blue-eyed Grass, Violets, Kittenails, Alexanders, Sedges and June Grass. Also, shade or partially shade any plants that continue to wilt after being watered. Once established, and barring any unusual weather patterns, your plants will need no further care if you have chosen the proper plants for your habitat. Some plants may benefit from being divided after 3-4 years. Good Luck! If you have any questions, call toll free 866.417.8156.

www.prairiemoon.com