

PLEASE CARRY PLANTS BY THEIR CONTAINERS OR ROOT BALL. Carrying plants by their tops or trunks may cause the weight of the soil ball to break the roots from the trunk.

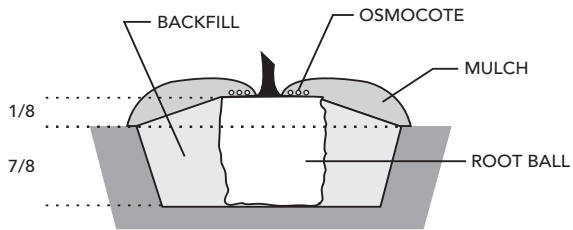
Plants should be watered immediately after their arrival at your home. Until planting, water plants daily. Newly planted material should be watered according to the directions on the back.

Planting Container Plants

These instructions are for planting container plants outside of planting beds. If you are planting a new bed, follow the instructions on the back.

STEP 1: Prepare planting hole

Dig a hole 1 foot wider than the diameter of the root ball. Make the depth so that 1/8 of the root ball will be ABOVE the surrounding soil level.



STEP 2: Prepare plant material

- Remove plant from the container either by turning it over and tapping the bottom or by cutting the pot.
- If the plant is root bound (roots circle around soil ball and appear tightly matted), use a knife or pruners to make 4 slices from top to bottom of the root ball. Cuts should be 1/2" deep and equal distance apart.
- Place plant in hole.

STEP 3: Planting

Backfill the sides with a mixture of 2/3 soil from the hole and 1/3 leaf gro, mulch, or peat moss. **DO NOT PLANT TOO DEEPLY.** Remember, 1/8 of the root ball should be above the surrounding soil level. Tamp the soil firmly around the root ball, eliminating all air pockets.

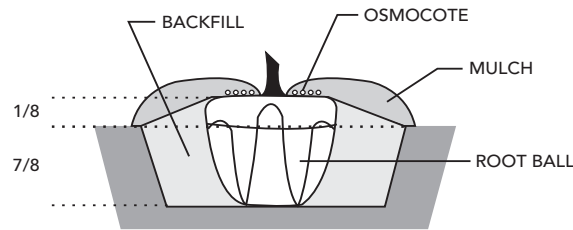
STEP 4: Finishing

- Fertilize with Osmocote slow release fertilizer.
- Cover with 1" layer of mulch over root ball and 2-3" over rest of planting area. Keep mulch away from the trunk or stem.
- **WATER, WATER, WATER**, as described in the watering instructions.

Planting Large Plants

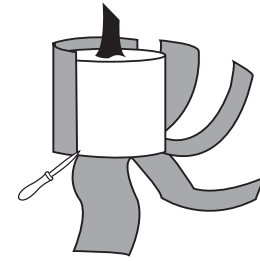
STEP 1: Prepare planting hole

Dig a hole 1 foot wider than the diameter of the root ball. Make the depth so that 1/8 of the root ball will be ABOVE the surrounding soil level.

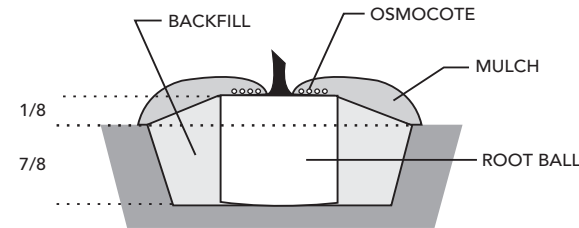


STEP 2-A: PREPARE B&B PLANT MATERIAL

- If root ball is packaged in a grow bag, skip to 2-B.
- Leave wire basket and burlap on the root ball.
- Place root ball in hole.
- Remove string and burlap on portions of the root ball above the soil level. The top of the wire basket may be bent back so it is even with the soil surface. (Leave the wire basket and burlap on the rest of the root ball.)
- Continue to step 3.



REMOVE THE ENTIRE GROW BAG, INCLUDING THE BOTTOM.



STEP 2-B: PREPARE GROW BAG PLANT MATERIAL

- Cut eight slits in the sides of the bag and remove the entire bag, including the bottom.
- Place plant in hole.

STEP 3: Planting

Backfill the sides with soil from the hole. **DO NOT PLANT TOO DEEPLY.** Remember, 1/8 of the root ball should be above the surrounding soil level. Tamp the soil firmly around the root ball, eliminating all air pockets.

STEP 4: Finishing

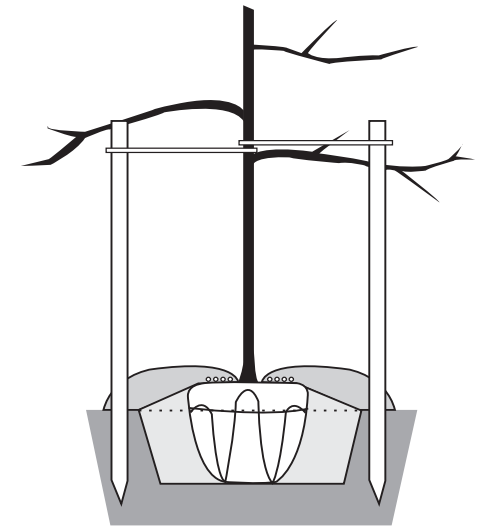
- Fertilize with Osmocote slow release fertilizer.
- Cover with 1" layer of mulch over root ball and 2-3" over rest of planting area. Keep mulch away from the trunk or stem.
- **WATER, WATER, WATER**, as described in the watering instructions.

Please note: LEYLAND CYPRESS in grow bags require a special planting and staking procedure. Please refer to the separate instruction sheet or www.sunnurseries.com.

Staking Instructions

All Grow Bag trees and most upright trees (container or B&B) over 4 feet tall should be staked. If you're not sure if you should stake your plants, please ask a nursery associate.

SMALL TREES	Use 4 foot stakes
MEDIUM TREES	Use 5 foot stakes
LARGE TREES	Use 6 foot stakes



Drive 2 stakes just outside of the planting hole on opposite sides of the tree (one on the East side and one on the West). Attach one end of black plastic chain to the top of each stake and the other end to the trunk of the tree at about the same height.

Except for conifers planted in fall, allow supports to remain in place no longer than one year. Fall planted conifers (including Leyland Cypress) should have supports in place for a year and a half.

Planting in Beds

STEP 1: Mark the bed line

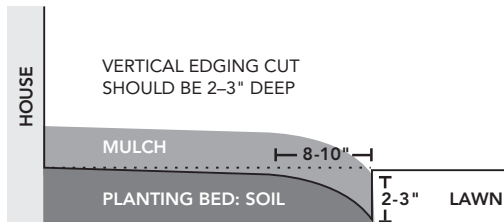
Determine the area of the bed and mark the edges. Spray paint, string, and garden hoses all work well.

STEP 2: Spray to kill weeds

Spray the bed area with Roundup or similar product to kill weeds or grass, if needed. Follow the the directions on the packaging. Wait at least 1–2 days after spraying Roundup to begin tilling. We recommend spraying 1 week prior to tilling, in case any areas need to be sprayed a second time.

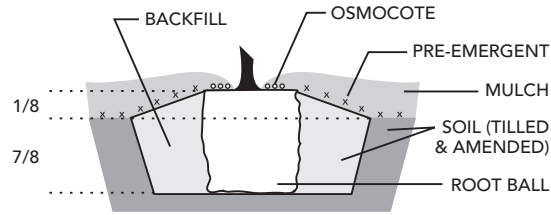
STEP 3: Tilling

- Till the bed before adding any soil amendments. This can be done with a motorized tiller, or by hand with a shovel. The bed may be edged prior to or after tilling.
- Add soil amendments (compost or leaf gro) to the bed at a rate of 1 cubic yard per 200 square feet (about 1" thick) of area and spread evenly throughout.
- Till the area again, just enough to mix the soil and amendments.
- Rake the bed to smooth the surface. Next to a building's foundation, slope the bed to assure proper drainage.



STEP 4: Arrange the plants

- Before removing plants from their containers, place inside the bed. Leave enough room for growth (or follow spacing on your design plan).
- If you're working from a design plan, remember that the plant symbols are enlarged to indicate their 10-year size. Using the scale, measure to the center of the symbol and place your plants at that location.
- Step back and check the layout of your plants from multiple angles.



STEP 5: Plant

- Dig a hole wide enough to allow tamping around the root ball. Make the depth so that 1/8 of the root ball will be ABOVE the surrounding soil level.
- Remove plant from the container either by turning it over and tapping the bottom or by cutting the pot.
- If the plant is root bound (roots circle around soil ball and appear tightly matted), use a knife or pruners to make 4 slices from top to bottom of the root ball. Cuts should be 1/2" deep and equal distance apart.
- Place plant in hole.
- Backfill the sides with soil from the hole. DO NOT PLANT TOO DEEPLY. Remember, 1/8 of the root ball should be above the surrounding soil level. Tamp the soil firmly around the root ball, eliminating all air pockets.

STEP 6: Finishing

- If not done prior to tilling, edge the bed. Edging may be done with a power edger, or by hand with a flat-blade shovel. (See diagram on left.)
- Rake the planting bed to level the soil and remove any large stones.
- Fertilize with Osmocote slow release fertilizer.
- Apply a pre-emergent herbicide (i.e., Preen) to the bed. Follow the directions on the packaging for application rates and methods.
- Prune any dead or broken branches.

STEP 7: Mulch

Mulch the entire bed with a 2-3" deep layer of mulch and smooth the top. Do not mulch deeper than 3". Mulch should be no more than 1/2" thick against the trunk or stem.

STEP 8: Water

Water the plants, even if it is raining. See watering chart on the right.

Watering Instructions

Immediately after planting

When you've completed the planting process, water your new plants thoroughly. Use an open-ended hose running at moderate pressure – Do not use a sprinkler. A thorough soaking will take from 20 seconds for small plants to 2-3 minutes for larger shrubs and trees. (See the chart below.)

Always check soil moisture before watering. Symptoms for over-watering and under-watering can look similar.

If you have a concern about a plant, take a sturdy stick and push it into the ground next to the rootball to the approximate bottom of the plant's hole. Pull the stick out and look to see if it is extremely wet or dry. (A moisture meter will also work.)

Plants in the ground for one year or less

Water twice weekly with an open-ended hose running at moderate pressure, using the following guide. Grow bag trees should be watered every other day. If drought conditions exist, water every second day.

Small plants (1 gal. container)	20 seconds (1/2 gal. water)
Medium plants (3-7 gal. container)	40 seconds (1 gallon)
Large plants (10+ gal., Grow Bag or B&B)	2 minutes (3 gallons)

- Watering wand or spray gun attachments (on a gentle setting) are suitable for use.
- Using a sprinkler for watering is not recommended. Visit sunnurseries.com for more information.
- Rainfall (Less than 1") should NOT be considered watering.

Established plants (In the ground 2 or more years)

During a hot, dry spell in mid-summer, established plants would benefit from occasional deep watering. Water once weekly, depending on the severity of the weather, using the above chart as a guide.

Planting Instructions



INCLUDING BED PREPARATION,
PLANTING, WATERING,
& STAKING INSTRUCTIONS



**SUN
NURSERIES**

14790 Bushy Park Road · Woodbine, MD 21797
ph. (410) 442-2090 · (301) 854-6107 · fax (410) 489-9578

For additional planting & care information,
visit www.sunnurseries.com.