

How to Plant and Grow your Native Plants

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This is about how to plant and take care of your plants and garden, as opposed to plan your native garden. It's not much more than dig the hole, plant, water and trim a couple of times a year and that's it.

- 1) Dig the hole. The hole should be deep enough so the plant sits "even" with the surrounding soil level. Fill the hole up with water and let drain out. This dampens the whole area (or the hole area). Generally, do not mix anything into the hole.
- 2) After the hole is dug and the water has drained out you are ready to take the plant out of the pot like a big Jell-O mold without breaking the root ball. You may want to water the pot first to slip the plant out more easily.
- 3) Carefully place the plant, root ball and all into the hole and cover with the soil from the hole. Water again! Water approximately 2 gallons of water per gallon size of container. The new plant needs lots of water when planted.
- 4) Water roughly weekly 2 gallons of water per gallon size of container for about the first year. You have to use a bit of judgment on the watering. During the hot summer months you might want to water a plant that has been in the ground less than one year maybe 2x per week. In winter if it has rained you can skip a week. That's it.
- 5) After the plants have been in the ground for the first year, knock back the watering. I would suggest that the watering be knocked back to nothing during late fall through middle spring. After middle spring watering between 1x and 2x per month actually makes the plants and the garden look better.
- 6) The care part. By mid-summer some of the plants will look a bit thrashed and overgrown. It's now time for "small" trim. You might want to dead head spent flowers and do a bit of weeding if necessary. You don't want weeds going to seed. Then in fall is the "big" trim. You can cut back hard the sages, buckwheats, and Matilija Poppies, desert mallows, et. al. Grasses can be clipped back too. No big trim for the ceanothus. But just about anything else that is sending a branch in the wrong spot is fair game for the clippers.
- 7) Fertilizer and spraying. No. We'll almost always a no. Bugs are usually the result of soft growth from too much fertilizer and or water.

Your done!