

# Planting Instructions & Advice for California Native or other Mediterranean plants

We live in a Mediterranean climate with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers.

**Planting in Autumn:** We can still have hot weather during the day. As daylight hours become fewer, these plants and trees begin to slow down their aboveground growth and put most of their energy into root development. That's why this is the perfect time to landscape with these plants.

**Start Here:** Put your plant in the ground as soon as you are able. If you cannot plant immediately, be sure to keep the plant out of the direct sun. Water every few days to keep the soil moist, but not soaking wet.

## 1 PLANT

- Dig a hole slightly wider than the pot, fill with water and wait for the surrounding soil to absorb the water.
- Remove the plant from the container and set it in the hole; don't disturb the roots.
- The top of the root ball should be 1 inch above the soil line, allowing the root crown to remain dry.



## 2 WATER

- In hot weather, newly planted plants need water every other day for a couple of weeks.
- Once the weather cools down, water once a week until the rains come.
- When it rains don't water. If we don't get rain for two weeks, water your plant.
- Drought tolerant plants still need regular garden water during the hot weather until they are established. After that, a watering schedule of twice a week is good.



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## 3 NEXT YEAR WHEN WARM WEATHER ARRIVES

- When the first warm weather season arrives, well-mulched drought tolerant established plants should be given one deep watering once a week. (Be aware of your plant's needs -- certain species, e.g. Fremontia, can die with extra summer watering)
- A general guide is that the first year you can water once a week; the second year, once every two weeks, the third year, once every three weeks, the fourth year and beyond, once a month during the hot weather.



### Plant it Right! videos from Tree of Life Nursery

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TreeofLifeNursery/videos>

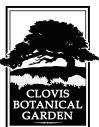
- Part 1: Digging the Hole
- Part 2: Getting the Plant in the Ground
- Part 3: Initial Watering
- Part 4: Follow-up Watering

## WISE Watering tips

- Water early in the morning, leaving the hose on a slow drip right on top of the root ball for a few hours.
- Take a 5-gallon bucket with two nail holes and place it over the root ball. Fill it up two or three times, letting the water seep down slowly into the root ball
- Soaker hoses can also be successfully used to gently soak the soil over a few hours
- Micro sprays are excellent ways to water Mediterranean plants because they simulate rain. Set the sprays wide enough to encourage healthy root growth.
- Standard drip irrigation might not be enough, at least initially, to keep your plant alive depending on weather, soil condition, or how well the roots are established. Monitor all drip lines to ensure sufficient water is encouraging strong root growth.

*Thank You*

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