



TECH SHEET

Planting Instructions

Standard Operating Procedure for Planting Vegetation Within the FocalPoint System

Placing the Plant:

1. Dig planting holes the depth of the root ball and two to three times as wide as the root ball. Wide holes encourage horizontal root growth that plants naturally produce.
2. With trees, you must ensure you are not planting too deep. Don't dig holes deeper than root balls. The media should be placed at the root collar, not above the root collar. Otherwise the stem will be vulnerable to disease.

Planting:

1. Remove plastic containers from container-grown plants. For plants in fiber pots, break away the top or remove the pot entirely.
2. If roots are circling around the root ball exterior, cut through the roots in a few places and remove the first inch of roots and planting material around the root ball. Cutting helps prevent circling roots from eventually girdling the trunk. If roots are not circling, the root ball should still be rubbed to loosen roots and promote growth into the media.
3. Remove tags and labels from plants.
4. Prune broken branches or suckers.
5. Only stake trees with large crowns, or those situated on windy sites or where people may push them over. Stake for a maximum of one year. Allow trees a slight amount of flex rather than holding them rigidly in place. Use guying or attach material that won't damage the bark. To prevent trunk girdling, remove all guying material after one year.
6. Plants should be watered at planting, especially during drought periods.

Spacing:

	Shrubs			Clump Grasses	Small Trees
Rootball Size	< 1 gallon	5 gallons	15 gallon	Plant clump grasses 24 inches on center	Plan small trees 12 feet on center
Spacing On Center	24 inches	42 inches	60 inches		

Mulching:

1. Cover the exposed root ball top with mulch. No mulch volcanoes! Mulch should not touch the plant base because it can hold too much moisture and invite disease and insects. Evenly place 3 inches of double-shredded hardwood mulch on the surface of the media.

Erosion Control

1. Where water is entering a focal point in one location, be sure to place erosion control stones to prevent scouring (like we did at English Assoc.)

Let me know if you have questions!

THINGS NOT TO DO:

Mulch in excess of 3 inches

Compacting media around the root ball

Do not use annuals

Keep in mind that some perennials (i.e. daylilies, hostas, etc...) die back in fall and re-emerge in spring. If you want greenery year round, be mindful of the perennials used.