

# INSTALLATION SUCCESS TIPS

## Transporting and Storing Your Plants

- ✓ Every time plants are moved, they are stressed. As soon as you get home, thoroughly water the plants and the foliage. Place the plants outside in the shade until you plant them. Do not leave them in your vehicle, in the garage, in the sun or on hot concrete.

## Digging the Planting Hole

- ✓ Call 811 before you dig to have your utility lines located and marked - it's free.
- ✓ Locate your irrigation system lines.
- ✓ The width of the hole should be at least 2 times the width of the pot. The loose soil, when returned to the hole, allows the roots to stretch and grow.
- ✓ The depth of the hole should be equal to the depth of the potted root mass. In coastal plantings, up to 50% of the plant can be buried.

## Planting Your Plants

- ✓ Know the mature size of each plant and place accordingly.
- ✓ The first year, your plants will be extending their roots beyond the dirt from the pot into the soil of your site. Unlike most exotic plants, the quicker these roots can reach the unmodified dirt (native soil) in your yard, the better they will adapt. Therefore, DO NOT place compost, fertilizer, manure, potting soil, fish emulsion or other amendments in the hole. The roots will just wrap around themselves in the amended hole and never adapt.
- ✓ After removing the pot, shave the sides of the root ball if root bound. Place the plant in the hole, surround the plant with the native soil at the same level as the plant was in the pot. Planting too deeply will not allow the roots to breathe. Coastal plantings may be much deeper.
- ✓ Feel free to create a large dirt saucer above the root mass in order to retain water.
- ✓ Water the plant well to remove air pockets and then repack the soil with your fingertips. Packing the soil with your foot or palm of the hand packs the top layer only.

## Mulching Your Plants

- ✓ Weed cloth is not recommended. Newspaper and cardboard are better.
- ✓ Plants prefer to be mulched with leaves and/or pine needles (pine straw).
- ✓ DO NOT use cypress mulch or fresh wood chips as plants derive no benefits and may be harmed. Pinestraw is available in lightweight bales.

## Watering to Establish Your Plants

- ✓ Hand watering is essential. The automatic Irrigation/sprinkler system is not adequate.
- ✓ Depending on the time of year and location of the plant bed, you will begin with watering every day or every other day for a month. Then wean off.
- ✓ Adjust according to rainfall. After establishment, supplemental water is not needed if "Right Plant Right Place". The first year, however, plants may require water in drought.

**The first year they sleep, the second year they creep, the third year they leap!**