

PLANTING TECHNIQUE

TREES AND SHRUBS

PLANT SELECTION FROM NURSERY

- NURSERY PLANTS HARDENED TO REDUCE SHOCK WHEN PLANTED OUT
- AVOID STAKED PLANTS
- HEALTHY ROOTBALL / NOT POT BOUND / NO CIRCLING ROOTS
- ADVANCED TREES ARE BEST GROWN OUT OF AIR PRUNED POTS
- DISEASE FREE
- DOES SIZE MATTER? 14 CM POT WILL OFTEN CATCH UP TO A 30 CM POT IN A FEW YEARS AFTER PLANTING

SOIL PREPARATION

- MECHANICAL WEED ERADICATION OR WITH CAREFUL USE OF HERBICIDE
- ADDITION OF ORGANIC MATTER / WELL ROTTED COMPOST / TO HELP SOIL STRUCTURE
- SOIL SHOULD BE DAMP NOT SATURATED
- DEEP RIPPING IF SOIL IS HEAVILY COMPACTED
- FORK RATHER THAN SPADE TO CULTIVATE SOIL / NEVER ROTARY HOE AS THIS ONLY COMPACTS THE SUBLAYERS

PLANTING

- BEST SEASON / AUTUMN TO SPRING
- USING A FORK TO BREAK UP AN AREA OF SOIL TWICE AS WIDE BUT ONLY AS DEEP AS THE POT / SQUARE RATHER THAN ROUND
- LIFT OUT ENOUGH SOIL TO PLACE THE ROOT BALL ONLY AS DEEP AS FINISHED SOIL LEVEL
- WET THE PLANTING HOLE AND ALLOW TO DRAIN
- THOROUGHLY WET ROOT BALL
- GENTLY REMOVE POT AND TEASE ROOTS IF REQUIRED / DISCARD POTS WITH CIRCLING ROOTS
- BACK FILL AROUND ROOT BALL FIRING DOWN TO REMOVE AIR POCKETS

- CREATE A SOIL BERM 50 CM AROUND PLANT AND WATER WELL
- ADDITION OF FERTIZERS CAN BE DONE BEFORE WATERING. A TOP DRESSING OF SUITABLE ORGANIC NATIVE FERTILIZER / SOME NATIVES RESENT PHOSPHOROUS *Proteaceae Family*. ALTERNATIVELY SLOW RELEASE NATIVE OSMOCOTE CAN BE INCORPORATED IN THE BACK FILL
- DO NOT DIG INTO IMPERMEABLE SUBSOIL SUCH AS HEAVY CLAY AS YOU WILL CREATE A PONDING OF WATER / CREATE A MOUND INSTEAD
- HEAVY CLAY SOILS CAN BE BROKEN DOWN WITH ADDITION OF GYPSOM WELL IN ADVANCE OF PLANTING
- ALWAYS WORK WITH THE SOIL YOU HAVE GOT RATHER THAN IMPORTING FOREIGN SOILS / SOIL LAYERING CAN IMPACT ON WATER MOVEMENT
- AVOID STAKING PLANTS / THIS WEAKENS THE PLANT AS IT MATURES

WATERING

FURTHER WATER NEEDS WILL DEPEND ON SEASON, SOIL TYPE AND PLANT REQUIREMENT / MORE PLANTS DIE FROM OVERWATERING THAN UNDER WATERING. DEEP WATERING LESS OFTEN.

MULCHING

MULCH WILL HELP PREVENT WATER EVAPORATION, WEED INFESTATION AND IF ORGANIC IMPROVE SOIL STRUCTURE / NEVER MULCH HARD UP AGAINST THE PLANT

- THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT MULCHING MATERIALS FROM ORGANIC- TIMBER BARK, STRAW AND SEAWEED. THESE WILL DRAW NITROGEN FROM THE SOIL SO APPLY A NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER SUCH AS BLOOD AND BONE WITH THE MULCH.
- OTHER MULCH CAN BE STONES, PEBBLES, SHELL GRIT, GRANITIC SANDS OR OTHER LOOSE TOPPINGS. COMPACTION AROUND PLANTS SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS THIS WILL PREVENT WATER PENATRATION.

PLANT MAINTENANCE AND TURNOVER

GARDENING PRICIPLES

IF A PLANT FAILS TO THRIVE

- CHECK THE SOIL / TOO WET / TOO DRY / COMPACTED / DESEASED
- CHECK THE PLANT / PESTS / DESEASE / ELEMENT DEFICIENCY
- CHECK THE ASPECT / SUN OR SHADE / SALT LADEN WINDS
- IF THE ABOVE CANNOT BE REMEDIED / REMOVE PLANT AND FIND A SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE

SHORT LIVED PLANTS

SOME SPECIES HAVE SHORT LIFE SPAN SUCH AS *Leucophyta brownii*. THESE ARE OFTEN QUICK GROWING PLANTS. REMOVE ONCE AMENITY VALUE GONE. THESE CAN BE REPEAT PLANTED OR REPLACED WITH A LONGER LIVED ALTERNATIVE

CHANGED ENVIRONMENT

AS TREES MATURE UNDERSTOREY PLANTS MAY NEED TO BE REPLACED WITH DRY SHADE PLANT OPTIONS

PRUNING

TREES

- FORMATIVE PRUNING CAN BE BENEFICIAL / CUT OUT CROSSING WOOD/ PREVENT FORKING / PREVENT DISEASE
- SHAPED OR HEDGED TO SUIT A LIMITED SPACE

SHRUBS

- FORMATIVE AS WELL AS SEASONAL PRUNING CAN GIVE GREATER AMENITY VALUE / EXTEND THE LIFE OF A PLANT / PROMOTE FLOWERING / FOR SPACE LIMITATION. CERTAIN SPECIES RESENT PRUNING SO ALWAYS CHECK.
- THE GENERAL RULE IS PRUNE AFTER FLOWERING.

GROUND COVERS, GRASSES, FLAX, AND CLIMBERS

- SLASH PERENNIAL GRASSES SUCH AS *Poa sp.* IN LATE SUMMER EARLY AUTUMN

- FLAX LILY, MAT RUSH, AND OTHER TUFTED PERENNIALS / CUT BACK SPENT FLOWER HEADS AND PULL OUT DEAD FOLIAGE IN AUTUMN
- CLIMBERS CUT BACK AFTER FLOWERING

FERTILIZING

- ONCE INDIGENOUS PLANTS ARE ESTABLISHED THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED TO APPLY SEASONAL FERTILIZER UNLESS THERE IS A PARTICULAR DEFICENCY OR SHOULD FURTHER ORGANIC MULCH BE APPLIED
- CERTAIN NATIVE AND INDIGENOUS PLANTS RESENT PHOSPHORUS. ALWAYS CHECK BEFORE APPLICATION.
- ONLY APPLY FERTILIZER IF NECESSARY / ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT RATE OF APPLICATION / ALWAYS WATER WELL

MULCHING

MULCHING IS SUCH A BONUS FOR PLANTS, GARDENERS AND THE SOIL. REPLACE ORGANIC MULCH AS IT BREAKS DOWN.

- WATER LESS
- WEED LESS
- SOIL IMPROVER
- AESTHETIC
- HELPS PREVENT COMPACTION OF SOIL AND EROSION

MULCHING TIPS

- ONLY MULCH MOIST SOILS NEVER DRY. MULCH CAN CREATE A BARRIER TO WATER IF SOIL IS NOT AT FIELD CAPACITY
- INCLUDE A NITROGENOUS FERTILIZER WHEN MULCHING WITH TIMBER PRODUCTS
- MULCH ONCE SOILS HAVE WARMED UP IN SPRING OR AT TIME OF PLANTING
- NEVER BUILD MULCH UP AROUND TRUNKS OR STEMS OF PLANTS AS THIS CAN CAUSE FUNGAL ATTACK TO PLANTS.
- ALWAYS PURCHASE MULCH FREE FROM WEEDS AND WELL COMPOSTED. GREEN COMPOST CAN CAUSE PHYTOTOXICITY.