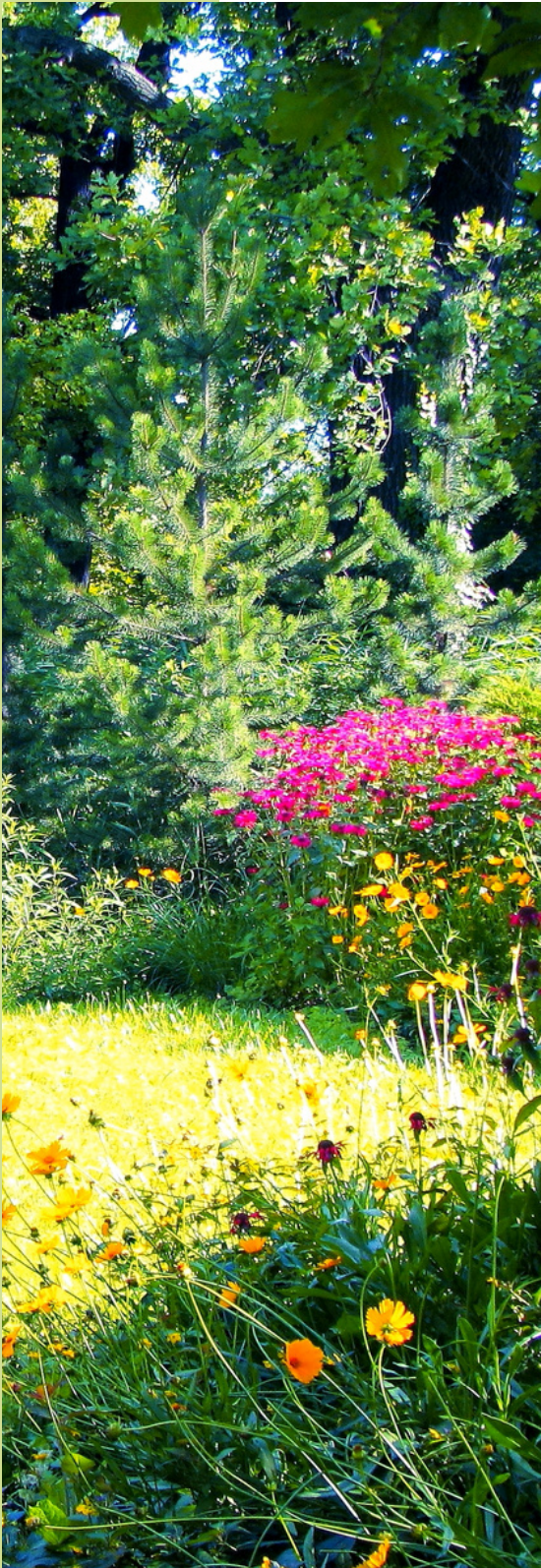


PLANTING

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO GARDENING





BEFORE YOU START

PICK THE BEST SPOT

The majority of flowering plants and vegetables require six to eight hours of daily full sun. Therefore, you must observe your garden during the day to determine which areas receive full sun and which receive partial or full shade.

Choose a relatively flat location for your garden if at all possible because managing a sloping garden is more challenging, time-consuming, and potentially costly. Furthermore, ensure your new nursery will have simple admittance to a water source.

Pro tip: Suncalc.net allows you to determine your ideal garden position. This lets you know when the sun rises and sets in your area throughout the year.



BEFORE YOU START

MAKE A PLANTING PLAN

Whether you have a new garden or have created a new bed, you will need to come up with a plan for what to plant where. To do this you can simply cut out pictures of the plants you want and play around with how to set them out. Make sure to consider the amount of space required by each plant.

PREPARE YOUR PLANTING BEDS

Before sowing or planting in new beds, loosening the soil makes it easier for roots to get the water and nutrients they need. When adding a large number of amendments, it is ideal to use a tilling machine. However, it is simple to go overboard, resulting in soil structure damage. When it comes to making small beds, digging is more practical.

Only work the soil when it is moist. It is more difficult to dig when the soil is too dry, and digging when the soil is too wet can damage the structure of the soil. Mix in the organic matter as you turn the top six to eight inches of soil with a spade or fork.

PLANTING

Planting Potted Plants:

Find a hole big enough to hold the plant you picked. By inserting the pot into the hole, you can check this with a potted plant. It should fit comfortably, with about 2 centimetres extra around the perimeter, and its depth should not be greater than the pots.

Tease out the mat of roots and loosen the soil gently if the plant has a tight rootball. Don't worry if you hurt the plant because new roots will grow.

Planting Bulbs:

Add a few crocks to the bottom of the container to aid in drainage if you want to plant bulbs there.

Then add a compost layer. You can plant bulbs in layers to save space to plant in a "lasagne" style.

If you are establishing spring bulbs in the ground, you can naturalize them in a yard by uncovering divots and popping the bulbs into multiple times their own profundity. Alternatively, you could plant a group a little bit closer to the surface around a tree. Since winter rains may cause rot in some bulbs, adding some grit to the hole will help many of them.

Planting Bare Root Shrubs & Trees:

If you have a rose, tree, or shrub with bare roots, make sure there is enough room for the roots to spread out comfortably. At the plant's base, look for the soil "tide mark," which indicates the depth at which it was planted previously.

Use this as a guide to determine how deep to plant now. To make it easier for roots to penetrate the soil, fork the sides of your hole. Add some fish, bone and blood, or well-rotted manure after you've dug your hole to the right depth and width. If you're using a stake, push it in diagonally now and firmly. Fill the hole with soil (tie to a stake if using one) and place your bare root plant there so that the roots are spread out. Firm the soil around the planting area with your hands.

Planting in Containers:

Add a few broken pieces of crockery to the bottom of the container to aid in drainage, which is the golden rule. To prevent your compost from drying out too quickly, mix it with some topsoil. Add slow-release fertiliser or a liquid feed on a regular basis.