

General Planting Guide



CHOOSING THE RIGHT SOIL

Good permanent soils consist of:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Sand/Silt/Clay | Charcoal |
| Pumice/Perlite Rock | Vermiculite |
| Peat Moss | Rice Hulls |

These are best for long-lived plants like fruiting and ornamental trees, perennial shrubs, herbs, succulents & others. These soils are reusable, as long as crop rotation is taken into consideration.

Poor potting soils consist of:

- Forest Products/Bark/Mulch
- Compost/Manure/Fertilizer
- Saw-dust/Wood Chips

Organic/biological materials are not recommended for the root zone of any plantings. The decomposition process will initially release nutrients but ultimately cause root rot. These materials must be renewed and belong only on the top layer above the roots, mimicking nature's natural duff layer.

GARY'S BEST ACID MIX

Contains 50% peat moss and 50% pumice rock.

- These are permanent, sterile materials
- Retain moisture and provide good drainage
- Best for amending compact clay soils
- Best for blueberries, azaleas, ferns, roses, vegetables & more
- Reusable, as long as crop rotation is considered.
- PH approx. 5.5

GARY'S BEST TOP POT

Contains peat moss, pumice, perlite, sand, & charcoal

- Permanent mixture (does NOT shrink)
- Provides excellent drainage (cannot over-water)
- Best for containers, pots, and raised beds.
- Best for succulents, fruit trees, CA natives, palms, plumerias, houseplants & more
- Reusable considering crop rotation
- PH between 6-6.5

AMENDING SOIL

- When amending hard clay soil: mix existing soil with pumice rock, sand or Gary's Best Top Pot or Acid Mix in a 50/50 ratio, 50% existing clay soil and 50% amendment.
- Anything organic (bark/compost/mulch) works best on top of the soil and should never be mixed underground around the plant's roots. It will cause roots to rot.

Keys to successful planting—WATER, OXYGEN, NUTRIENTS—in this order

- Newly installed plants can DIE—within 1 day without adequate water, within 1 week without adequate oxygen, within 1 year without adequate nutrients.

WATER

- Container plants dry out faster, especially small ones, water daily.
- Water thoroughly, entirely saturate soil before transplanting any plant, to assist root re-establishment.
- For newly planted plants DO NOT rely on sprinklers; at 80°+ water daily, at 70°+ water every 2-3 days, at 60°+ water weekly.
- Once the plant is established, water plants 3-4 times per week. Check for wilting leaves.
- Water succulents/drought tolerant plants 1-2x per week. Check for wilting leaves.
- Drip watering saves money. A little water daily is better than a deep soak 2-3 times per week. Sprinklers or drip watering: Set timer for 3-5 minutes in the morning, and again at noon.
- Allow leaves to dry before the sun sets.

OXYGEN

- Roots breathe oxygen that filters from the surface down through the soil. Roots can hold their breath for up to 2 days but without oxygen, they will suffocate and/or get diseased.
- Soil amended with 25% pumice will breathe well.
- Organic amendments will decompose—consuming oxygen, this is only beneficial at the surface not in the root zone.

NUTRIENTS

- Organic fertilizers start slow (breaking down in a few weeks) but are better for plant/soil health.
- Chemical/synthetic fertilizers, like Osmocote, work within days and last up to 6 months, but allow, or even cause, the soil to die over time.
- Apply fertilizers at the surface, within top 2 inches. Apply faster acting organic fertilizers like chicken manure/blood meal to young plants.

BEFORE PLANTING

If you don't have time to transplant immediately, provide extra care and extra water.

DO NOT leave plants in a hot vehicle. In summer, keep plants in part sun so that their containers do not over heat. Read, ask, or research about preferred shade/sun requirements for each plant. Make sure plants that have been in the shade or a greenhouse are slowly acclimated into full sun.

CONTAINER PLANTING

GARY'S BEST ACID MIX for small containers & plants that prefer acidic soil and plants that prefer ample moisture like blueberries, strawberries, vegetables and herbs

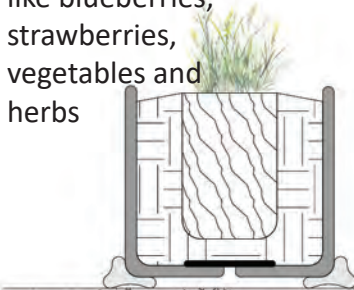
GARY'S BEST TOP POT for large containers, especially palms, succulents, and indoor plants

Avoid "soil-less" soil that promotes rot and disease

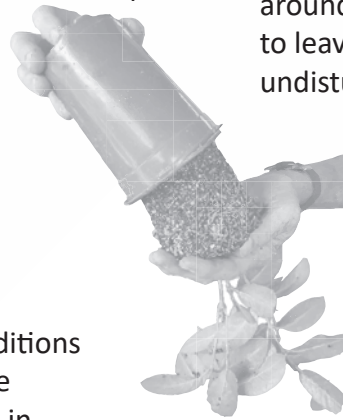
Carefully remove plant from pot

Or cut the pot off around the plant to leave roots undisturbed

Situate root-ball at level or slightly higher than soil surface, slope soil away from root ball, ensure water drains away from plant base



Soil conditions are more extreme in containers than in-ground



Mulch for moisture retention



Berm for water infiltration

A hole as deep and two times width of root-ball

LAGUNA HILLS NURSERY POLICIES

We guarantee that plants are true to type. • We will replace at our discretion or provide store credit, when trees, shrubs, or vines are returned within 6 months of purchase due to poor performance. • Plants must have received adequate irrigation to be eligible for return or replacement. • Any returned items must be accompanied by a receipt, or the purchase must be in the system, or it will not be accepted. • Any item sold at a discount cannot be returned for any reason. • If you are concerned about the health of the plant, send a picture of it to lhnhelp@gmail.com. (We try to save the plant before it dies.) • Plants can be returned for full refund at any time if mis-labeled. • Bedding Plants: Due to short shelf life, can be returned within 10 days of purchase. • Bare Root Plants: Are guaranteed (cash back, or replaced if in stock) 90 days or more, to sprout and grow. • Container Plants: Can be returned within 30 days if in good condition. • Can be replaced (no refund) if it dies within 90 days, and be replaced within 1 year at management's discretion, with a potting fee. • Pesticides can be returned within 30 days if not opened (seal is not broken). • Fertilizers can be returned within 30 days if not opened. • Hardware/tools can be returned within 20 days if not opened, or used • Can be replaced within 90 days if the product fails. • Pots can be returned within 30 days if not used or broken.

FREE GARDENING CLASSES — Every Saturday morning — 9:15am.

1829 N Tustin Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705 (714) 542-5600

Hosted by expert horticulturists **Gary Matsuoka** and **Leah Beattie**

Attendance is free, no reservations required, class lengths vary and are live streamed:

Viewable on You-tube **Gary's Best Gardening**

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