

## The Dirt on Planting

- ✓ **ANALYZE YOUR SITE — RIGHT PLANT FOR RIGHT PLACE**
  - **Dry Areas / Wet Areas**
  - **Sunny Areas / Shady Areas**
  - **Rich soil / Poor Soil**
  - **Drainage / Slope**
  - **Aspect**
  - **Wind**
  - **Existing Vegetation**
  
- ✓ **ADDING SOIL AMENDMENTS**
  - **Do a soil test to determine pH level, apply recommended amount of lime to correct pH to 6.5 – 7.0 range**
  - **Soil low in organic material add ONE OR MORE of the following materials per 100 square feet:**
    - Compost**  
100 lbs. wet, or 15 lbs. dry, 2-4 inch depth
    - Manure (overwinter for new bed before planting)**  
50 – 100 lbs. wet, or 15 lbs. dry, 2-4 inch depth
    - Leaf Mold**  
50-100 lbs., 2-4 inch depth
    - Peat Moss**  
4 lbs., 1 inch depth
  
- ✓ **INCORPORATING SOIL AMENDMENTS**
  - **Traditional method**  
Remove turf, thoroughly dig or till area to be planted. Mix soil amendments deeply and uniformly.
  - **No Till Method (Lasagna Gardening)**  
Cover turf with 5-10 sheets of black and white newspaper. Layer amendments 6 – 12 inches over area. Turf will be composted in place over time.

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### **✓ MAINTENANCE TIPS**

**FALL:** Good time for dividing and planting, lime if necessary, dig and amend new areas, remove diseased plants, compost leaves, check for grubs, topdress with compost and ground seaweed, aerate turf areas

**WINTER:** Mulch after soil freezes, save wood ash for amending soil

**SPRING:** When soil dries, dig in compost, add nutrients, mulch as necessary, sidedress with compost, divide and plant , aerate turf areas

**SUMMER:** Replenish mulch as needed, pull weeds before they seed

## **The Wet on Watering**

- Soaking areas of the original root ball of new plants is vital the first few months after planting
- Capture rainwater with rain barrels or cisterns
- Water by hand only when plants need it
- Sprinklers that spray water high in the air lose water to wind and evaporation before it even touches the soil
- Bubblers look like familiar spray heads but only soak plants that are close by
- Microirrigation systems that apply water directly to the soil are efficient and highly effective

## References

- Water: A Practical Guide to Using and Conserving Water in the Garden Susan McClure
- Water-Conserving Gardens and Landscapes John M. O'Keefe
- Dry-Land Gardening: A Xeriscaping Guide for Dry-Summer, Cold Winter Climates Jennifer Bennet
- Ortho's All About Dry Climate Gardening Ortho Books
- Lasagna Gardening Patricia Lanza
- Weedless Gardening Lee Reich
- High Country Gardens Catalog  
Plants for the Western Garden and Beyond  
Your Waterwise Gardening Catalog and Handbook  
800-925-9387  
[www.highcountrygardens.com](http://www.highcountrygardens.com)