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Recipe for Success with Planting in the Summer

There are many different ways to beat the heat and be a success in planting during the summer months. The following is a guideline and reminders that we think will help reduce the risk of losing your new plants.

- Plant in the morning before the heat of the day.
- Dig a hole twice the diameter and the same depth as the plants' root ball.
- Incorporate **Gardener & Bloome Soil Building Compost** (or other well aged compost) using approximately 1/3 compost to 2/3 native soil. If planting in pots, use a good potting soil such as MiracleGro Moisture Control Potting Soil.
- Add **Gardner & Bloome Starter Fertilizer** (or other organic or slow release fertilizers such as **Osmocote Plus**) using half the recommended rate listed (i.e. use 1/8 cup per 1 gallon plant vs. 1/4 cup). We suggest this due to the potential of burning new plants during heat spells. If using a potting soil that includes fertilizer, there is no need to add additional fertilizer at planting time.
- Gently remove plants from nursery containers. Loosen roots that are encircling the root ball. Keep exposed roots shaded from direct sun.
- Water thoroughly after planting. Build a water-well around plants that are planted in the ground to ensure water is penetrating deep to the plants' roots.
- Apply a 2 inch layer of **Gardener & Bloome Soil Building Compost** or bark chips on the soil surface. Keep mulch several inches away from the plants base to avoid crown rot. Skip this step for plants in pots.
- Check soil moisture near the root ball daily. Water thoroughly when soil surface starts to feel dry. Most will require frequent watering until established and until the weather cools. (We water most of our nursery plants everyday in the summer). Hanging plants often times need water every day and sometimes twice on hot days!
- Approximately four weeks after planting, start a regular fertilizing regime using fertilizers ½ strength but twice as often. Always water plants prior to fertilizing to ensure that plants are not stressed. You can also keep them gorgeous by mimicking our growers who apply a light dilution of fertilizers such as **MaxSea All Purpose Plant Food** at ¼ regular strength each time they water. Continue this regime throughout the summer season and see success!