

Planting Perennial Grasses In The Ground

TIP: Before removing the rootball of your plant from the nursery pot it was grown in, give it a good deep soaking with water from the garden hose.

Step 1. Start by digging your planting hole two to three times as wide and as deep or not much deeper than the root ball of your plant. The wider the hole the better. Place native soil removed from planting hole around the perimeter of the hole, in a wheel barrow, or on a tarp.

Step 2. Depending on the type, fertility and porosity of the soil in the planting area you might need to amend the native soil. When planting in dense clay it is beneficial to thoroughly mix in some bagged top soil, sand, and/or a good planting mix at a 50/50 ratio with the clay soil. When planting in very sandy, quick-draining soil you might want to consider mixing in some top soil, peat moss and/or compost to help retain some moisture. When planting in fertile, loamy, well-drained soil there is no need for adding a soil amendment.

Step 3. To remove your grass plant from the container it was growing in, firmly grasp the base of the plant and try to gently lift and remove it from its container. If the rootball is stuck in the container either cut the container away or place the plant on its side and gently pound on the side of the container to loosen the rootball. After having removed the plant from the container, loosen some feeder roots around the surface of the rootball. If root bound, you can gently spray the sides and bottom surfaces of the rootball with a stream of water from a garden hose. This will help to wash away some soil from the exterior of the rootball making it easier to loosen roots.

Step 4. Set your grass in the planting hole so that the top edge of the root ball is at or slightly above ground level to allow for settling. It may be necessary to place some of the backfill soil mixture in the bottom of the hole to achieve proper planting height.

NOTE: If the soil is poorly drained (constantly soggy or wet) you can create a mound of soil completely above ground level to plant in, or consider planting a plant species tolerant of wet soils.

Step 5. After setting your grass in the planting hole, use one hand to hold it straight while using your other hand to begin backfilling the soil mixture around the root ball, tamping as you go to remove air pockets. When you have filled the hole to the halfway point you can soak the soil. Then continue backfilling to the top edge of the root ball. If you are planting with the root ball above ground level, taper your soil mixture gradually to the ground level, essentially creating a raised mound. To avoid suffocating your plant, do **not** put any soil on top of the root ball.

Step 6 (Optional). If you are planting your grass in a location far away from a water source, you can use remaining soil mixture to build a water retaining berm (water catch

basin) around the outside perimeter of the planting hole. This basin will help to collect water from rainfall and irrigation often reducing the need for hand-watering. The berm can be removed after a year or so.

Step 7. Next, deeply water the planting area, including the root ball, to a depth equal to the height of the root ball. For an extra boost, you can also water your newly planted grass with a solution of Root Stimulator, which stimulates early root formation and stronger root development, promoting greener, more vigorous plants.

Step 8. Apply a 1 to 2" layer of aged, shredded wood mulch or bark, or a 3- 4" layer of pine straw, around your newly planted Maiden grass. **Do not** use freshly chipped or shredded wood for mulch until it has cured in a pile for at least 6 months, a year is better.

Step-By-Step Container Planting Instructions

Step 1. Before filling your container with the soil mix, we recommend lining the bottom with shade cloth or a porous landscape fabric. This will keep the drain holes from becoming stopped up with soil.

Step 2. To remove your grass plant from the container it was growing in, firmly grasp the base of the plant and try to gently lift and remove it from its container. If the rootball is stuck in the container either cut the container away or place the plant on its side and gently pound on the side of the container to loosen the rootball. After having removed the plant from the container, loosen some feeder roots around the surface of the rootball. If root bound, you can gently spray the sides and bottom surfaces of the rootball with a stream of water from a garden hose. This will help to wash away some soil from the exterior of the rootball making it easier to loosen roots.

Step 3. Pour a small amount of your soil mixture in the bottom of the container. Set the plant in the container and make necessary adjustments by adding or removing some soil so that the top edge of the root ball will sit 1" or so below the rim of the container.

Step 4. Backfill with your potting soil around root ball, tamping as you go, until the level of potting soil is even with the top edge of root ball.

Step 5. Water thoroughly until water starts to drain from the holes in the bottom of the container. Add more potting mix if settling occurs during watering.