

Planting Instructions

Bluestem Nursery - www.bluestem.ca

True grasses are very easy plants to grow and we usually have 100% success. Due to certain conditions that are beyond our control (eg. weather, skill of individual gardeners, etc), we cannot guarantee success with our plants. However by following our instructions below you should have a good chance of achieving the same success that we do.

If you are dissatisfied with the plants you receive, we really want to know about it so that we can correct it. We strive for 100% satisfaction on the part of our customers. Feedback is important to us.

Planting Grasses and Perennials, Plugs and Bare-Root:

Keep the plants shaded from sun and wind! They must not become dry while you out in the garden, waiting to put them in the ground. Make sure a plug's root mass is damp before planting and that the ground is thoroughly soaked after planting. If you soak the plug in water before planting, it may result in the soil falling away from the roots. This is undesirable as the roots are then disturbed. Spraying with water is better. One of the advantages of plugs is that they are ready to simply drop into the soil and the roots don't even know what has happened to them. If planting under particularly sunny and hot conditions, it may be useful to shade rig up shade for the bare-root plants.

When planting you disturb the soil. As a result of this "fluffing" it will dry out more quickly during dry weather than other parts of your landscape that have not been disturbed. The new plants must also be kept well watered because they are new. In hot dry climates they should be watered every day. However remember that grasses take advantage of not just the rain, but also other kinds of moisture, such as fog, dew and high humidity.

When the weather is cool and wet, as if often is in the spring, the warm season grasses do not need any extra water. Make sure that your automatic watering system is shut off and does not rely on its rain sensors. Wait for a few days after the cool wet weather is finished before watering again. The roots of newly planted warm season grasses can actually rot in cold wet soil and that is why we do not ship warm season grasses until the weather is warm in the spring, and why we do not ship them in the fall. We want you to have success with our grasses in your climate.

Grasses are tough plants and naturally go into dormancy when they feel threatened. If your lawn dries in the summer it will spring back to life once it is watered. Grasses also survive floods and fires. So if your grasses appear to have died after planting, they are quite possibly just in "self preservation" mode and will start to grow again in a couple of weeks.

Important: do not plant too deep. Keep the plant's crown (where roots meet leaves) at soil level - roots in the soil, leaves above.

Note: we often trim foliage before shipping. This means that some plants look dormant because they still have the previous season's brown blades. The cutting back of the current season's growth stimulates new growth. Be patient (possibly as long as a month) and you will have lots of new growth soon.

Remember: cool season grasses do their growing when the weather is cool and therefore start to grow early in the spring. Warm season grasses do not start to grow until the soil warms up as they are lovers of hot weather. So do not panic if some of your grasses are not showing any signs of life early next spring.

If your plant(s) die, please let us know after a month and not the next year. We are not responsible for their hardiness.