

## Helpful Guidelines for Successful Native Plant Garden Installation

**When to Plant:** Native plant gardens are most successful when planted in autumn, winter, and early spring (October through March). The cool ground and rainy season will help the plants establish.

**Plant Size:** A one-gallon-sized plant is easy to plant and will grow quickly. Give the plants plenty of space to grow. (Research the mature size of the plant at [www.CalScape.org](http://www.CalScape.org)).

**Mulch:** After planting, provide a 2-inch layer of natural mulch. Do not put mulch directly around the trunk of the plant. Native plants do not like mulch around their trunk.

**Water Deeply When Installed:** Our experience has taught us that if new native plant gardens fail, it is often because they are not watered deeply enough when first installed.

After digging a hole for your native plant, the empty hole should be watered first, then the water should be allowed to soak in before planting the new native plant.

Immediately after planting, give newly installed native plants a deep and thorough soaking.

**Deep Water Weekly the First Month:** Deep water new native plants once a week for the first month to prevent the root ball from drying out.

**After First Month, Water Deeply Twice a Month:** Twice-monthly deep water will help the plants become established.

**After Garden is Established Water Deeply Once a Month:** After one year, established native plant gardens enjoy once-a-month deep soakings.



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