



## FREEDOM TREE FARMS

# SPRING PLANTING GUIDE

Springtime means that garden centers are packed with people and car trunks are packed with plants. Everyone has dirt on his or her knees, dirt under their nails, and they are getting excited about gardening.

Installing new plants and having them grow successfully is not difficult or is it as complicated as some would have you think. Is it as easy as just digging a hole and setting the plant in? Yes, it can be.

For container grown plants, follow the planting instructions for depth of planting. Before gently removing the plant from the container check the drain holes in the bottom of the container for roots that might be growing out the holes. If present, cut them off so you can get the plant out of the container. The easiest way to remove the plant from the container is to place your hand over the top of the container and turn it completely upside down and give it a gentle shake. The plant should slide right into your hand.

Examine the root mass as you hold it in your hand. Sometimes when plants have been growing in a container for a long time the roots start to grow in a circular pattern around the root mass. This is not good, and you should disturb these roots before planting so you can break this circular pattern. You can take a knife and actually make about three vertical slices from the top of the root mass to the bottom. This will stimulate new roots that will grow outward into the soil of your garden. Or you can just take your fingers and loosen the roots that are circling the root mass and force them outward before you plant them.