



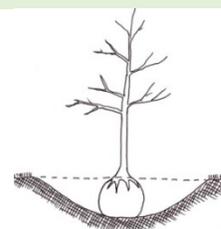
CTPN Planting Guide

RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT PLACE

To select an appropriate location you should know something about the plant you're working with. How big will it get, and what are its light and water requirements? A great resource to answer these questions is the [Natives for Your Neighborhood](#) website from The Institute for Regional Conservation. Be sure to avoid planting trees under power lines or too closely to buildings. Call 811 before digging if you are unsure about underground utility lines on your property.

PLANTING

Dig a hole large enough to bury the entire root ball. If you live on limestone like the Miami Rock Ridge, you may need to use a digging bar or pick-axe to dig the hole. Always remove the pot before planting. Place your plant into the hole and use the soil from the hole to backfill around the root ball. Don't add store-bought soil. Firmly press the soil around the plant to ensure it is stable. Make sure all roots are covered yet avoid planting too deeply. If you plant a tree or shrub, you never want the trunk to be covered with soil. Give it a good drink of water once you are finished.

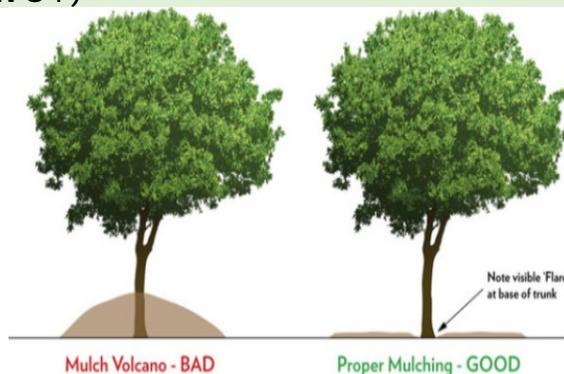


WATERING

Plants will need to be watered until they are established; after that they should not need water except during times of drought. If you plant during South Florida's rainy season, you will have less work to do! We recommend the following watering/rain schedule for new plantings: **Weeks 1&2:** water every day it doesn't rain; **Weeks 3&4:** water every 2-3 days; **After week 4:** water once a week or when you see wilting leaves. **After 3 months** your plants should be established. Note this is a general schedule; check moisture requirements for your plants on Natives for Your Neighborhood and adjust as needed. In rare cases, you may need to water occasionally for up to one year. Wilting leaves are the easiest way to tell your plant needs water.

MULCHING (OR NOT)

Mulch is not recommended for restoration projects but in the garden it is a helpful tool when used correctly. It can suppress weeds, hold in moisture, and add to the aesthetics of your yard. A layer of 2-3 inches in new planting areas is all that's necessary. Do not mulch up to the base of the plant or cover the trunk, it can adversely affect the health of your plant. Always select mulch that comes from a sustainable source. Eucalyptus mulch is more sustainable than cypress. Dyed red or brown mulch leaches chemicals and should be avoided. Mulch decomposes quickly in South Florida; you should expect to re-apply it once a year or so.



PRUNING & MAINTENANCE

Some pruning may be necessary to remove dead leaves or branches or to keep plants from getting too large. Grasses and herbs are low maintenance but many species will look best if they are cut back once a year or every few years (especially those from fire-adapted habitats). Shrubs can be cut back 6 inches, several times a year to maintain a certain height. Most native trees will not require much pruning. Start with branches that are crossing. Trees should never be hat raked.