

## PROBLEMS WITH YOUR PLANTS

If your order arrives in poor condition, first, please accept our apologies. We strive to ensure safe arrival of our plants. Notification about orders that arrive damaged must be made to us BY EMAIL within 72 hours of receipt. PLEASE KEEP ALL PACKAGING MATERIAL as it shows packer information and may be inspected by UPS. A photo is requested to show damage. Notification of plants not producing true to name must be made to us by Oct. 15th, and be accompanied by photographs.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE YOUR PLANTS

First, remove the plants completely from the packaging. DO NOT LEAVE IN THE BOX! Move them to a cool shady spot to rest from their cross-country journey. Only water if the soil is bone dry. If the soil is moist, DO NOT WATER. If dry, just give the pot 2-3 Tablespoons of water. This would be a great time to add seaweed to the water, 1-2 Tablespoons per gallon. Allow the water to drench through the pot, and wait at least 6 hours before adding more water. Since your plants have traveled during shipment in a box in the dark, we recommend that you allow your plants a few days to acclimate back into the light, putting them out in the sun in the morning through mid-day, and returning them to shade during the heat of the day. DO NOT KEEP IN THE HOUSE FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY! Keep an eye on watering, and keep the pots neither too wet nor too dry. If they get too dry and begin to wilt, don't panic!! Just give the pot 2-3 Tablespoons of water. If the pots get too wet, use a pencil or a long nail to scratch the surface or gently poke a few holes into the soil, to allow air to enter. IF IN DOUBT ABOUT WATERING, DON'T... never over-water. Most disease and production problems are due to overwatering.

## WHEN AND HOW TO TRANSPLANT YOUR PLANTS

If your plants have arrived looking very stressed, wait a few days until they stabilize before transplanting. Keep them in bright light and keep them dry. Night temps must stay above 55-60 degrees for peppers and eggplants, 50-55 degrees for tomatoes. Young plants grow poorly with cold nights and cold feet! To get a jump on the season, or if you cannot plant out right way, up-pot your plants into a 4" diameter pot. Use regular potting mix (we do not recommend Miracle Gro), fertilize with organic fertilizer and grow out for a few weeks. Put out during sunny days and return inside at night. Locate your garden in a well-drained sunny area, and work organic matter (compost, dried shredded leaves, and well-rotted manure) into the soil. In regions where summer temps are extremely high, try to locate plants where they will receive late afternoon shade. Transplant in the evening hours when the sun is not so strong or on a cloudy day. At the nursery, we irrigate our transplants with a solution of fish emulsion and seaweed, and allow them to soak in this solution for 5-10 minutes before planting. Dig a hole larger and deeper than the root ball of the plant you will be transplanting. Gently open the bottom of the root ball so that all roots extend downward and plant at the same depth as in the pot. Only tomatoes can be planted deep—as deep as possible—remove all leaves that will be below the soil line. Remove all buds, flowers and fruits until you see that the plant has put on good strong growth, or for at least 2 weeks. While this may seem crazy, doing so will give you a much larger plant just loaded with fruit, versus a small plant with only a few fruits. Don't forget to lay down a 5" layer of mulch.

## WHEN AND HOW TO WATER YOUR PLANTS

After transplanting, the plants will need to have consistent soil moisture to nourish them as they start making new roots into their new environment. Keep soil moist, but never wet. Remember, if in doubt about watering, don't... For the first few weeks, keep a keen eye on your plants. A FIVE INCH (5") LAYER OF MULCH IS ESSENTIAL to keep the plants' roots cool, moist, and from heating and drying out. Use straw, or hay/grass clippings on newspaper. To test the soil moisture, dig below the mulch and feel the soil many inches below the surface. Only water if dry! Try to water in the morning, and never in the heat of the day. Water the soil and never the leaves. DO NOT WATER EVERY DAY! Use MULCH and let nature take care of your plants. Mulch promotes roots that go deep down versus those that stay on the surface. We water only once or twice a summer, sometimes none!

## WHEN AND HOW TO FERTILIZE YOUR PLANTS

For the first 3 weeks fertilize once a week with liquid seaweed/fish to promote good root growth. Our favorite and the easiest is our Granular Organic fertilizer. Top-dress at planting and again 6-8 weeks later. We use organic fertilizers on all of our plants. While a plant will uptake and utilize an *organic* fertilizer the same as an *inorganic* fertilizer, your soil certainly will know the difference. Organic fertilizers promote the good bacteria and soil microorganisms which are essential for good plant health. They encourage earthworms and other soil organisms which are good at aerating and loosening the soil. Fish emulsion is good to get young plants growing. Seaweed is high in potassium to promote good root growth. Seaweed is also full of many micronutrients, a sort of "multivitamin" for plants! It helps combat the stresses that plants are subjected to, such as heat, drought, and insect attack. We find that the Granular Organic fertilizer increases our yields tremendously. This is especially necessary for container grown plants and those in northern latitudes. The key factor for an abundant harvest is proper fertilization.

If you are happy with your plants, please tell your friends. If unhappy, please tell us! We truly care about our plants, and our customers - and sincerely appreciate and value your business. Wishing you an abundant harvest.

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