

Bobby & Lynn's Plant Farm

Real Plants. Real People. Real Passion.

New Plant Care Guide

A simple first-year guide to help newly planted shrubs, perennials, and small trees settle in successfully.

Plant Name	_____	Date Planted	_____
Location	_____	Sun Exposure	_____

1. Planting-Day Checklist

- Confirm the plant is suited to your hardiness zone and sunlight.
- Dig the hole about twice as wide as the root ball, but no deeper.
- Loosen circling roots and remove any tight nursery ties or wrapping.
- Set the top of the root ball level with or slightly above the surrounding soil.
- Backfill mostly with the native soil rather than creating a rich pocket.
- Water slowly and deeply after planting to settle the soil.
- Add 2-3 inches of mulch, keeping it several inches away from the trunk or stems.
- Place the plant tag somewhere safe for future reference.

2. First 7 Days

- Check soil moisture every day, especially during hot or windy weather.
- Water when the root-ball area feels dry 1-2 inches below the surface.
- Apply water directly over and just beyond the root ball.
- Recheck the planting depth after the first thorough watering.
- Watch for severe wilting, broken stems, or signs the plant has shifted.
- Avoid fertilizer unless the plant label or local guidance specifically recommends it.
- Keep lawn equipment and pets away from the new planting.

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New Plant Follow-Up Guide

3. First-Year Watering Guide

Time After Planting	General Check	What to Remember
Week 1	Check daily	Root balls can dry faster than surrounding soil.
Weeks 2-4	Check every 2-3 days	Water deeply when the root area begins to dry.
Months 2-3	Check 2 times weekly	Adjust for rainfall, heat, soil type, and plant needs.
Remainder of Year 1	Check weekly	Continue during dry spells; don't rely only on lawn irrigation.

4. Mulch & Soil

- Keep mulch about 2-3 inches deep.
- Pull mulch back from trunks, crowns, and main stems.
- Check that water can soak into the soil instead of running away.
- Avoid piling extra soil over the root ball.
- Top up mulch only when it becomes thin.

5. What to Watch For

- Persistent wilt even when soil is moist
- Yellowing leaves that continue to spread
- Blackened, broken, or damaged stems
- Standing water around the root zone
- Chewed leaves or visible insects
- Plant leaning, sinking, or becoming loose
- No new growth during the expected growing period

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New Plant Monthly Care Record

6. Monthly Check-In

Month	Watering OK?	New Growth?	Pests/Disease?	Notes / Action Needed
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

7. Plant Notes

Expected mature size: _____

Expected bloom season: _____

Pruning time: _____

Special care instructions: _____

Remember: New plants need consistent moisture, not constantly soggy soil. Always adjust watering for rainfall, heat, soil drainage, and the plant's specific needs.