The Planter’s Palette takes pride in offering quality plant stock to our customers, and with careful planting techniques, our plant material will thrive. We offer the following installation instructions to help ensure success.

Prior to planting call J.U.L.I.E. (Joint Utilities Locator) if unsure about location of, or planting near, buried utilities. JULIE’s number is 1-800-892-0123.

**PLANTING AND MULCHING**

**Container Grown**
Dig a hole 2 times as wide but no deeper than the soil in the container. Remove container and cut, or pull apart, any roots encircling the soil. Place the plant in the hole so that the crown of the plant is level or preferably about 1-2” above the grade. Backfill the hole with the original soil, *firmly packing it around the root ball. Water carefully to remove air pockets and thoroughly soak the soil. Finally, add 1-2” of bark mulch. Keep mulch away from the stems or trunks. Do not create a volcano-like pile.*

**Balled and Burlapped**
Dig a hole no deeper than necessary but 2 times wider than the soil ball. The top of the plant ball should be 2-4” above the ground level for drainage. The sides of the hole should be scored to remove any glazing caused by the back of the shovel. Remove ropes, or top half of wire basket and burlap after the plant has been placed in the hole. Begin to place the soil* back into the hole and pack using foot or spade handle. The root flare (where the trunk meets the roots) should be at or above ground level. Water carefully to remove air pockets and thoroughly soak the soil. Remove any excess soil. Add 1-2” of bark mulch, keeping it away from stems or trunks. Do not create a volcano-like pile.

**WATERING**
Provide water on the day of installation. Thereafter, watering should not be on a set schedule. Check it every 3-4 days by placing a finger or probe down 2” into the soil. Water only when soil feels dry 2” under the surface. Slowly (trickle) fill water basin around the base of the tree/shrub 2 times allowing water to soak in rather than run off. A weekly deep watering is better than surface wetting. 1” of water/rain per week is a good gauge.

**To Stake Or Not To Stake That Is The Question**
A common practice in the industry has been to stake or “guy” a newly planted tree until it is firmly rooted. Research is now showing that staking weakens and, in some cases, even damages the trunk. Therefore, it is no longer recommended except in special circumstances.

*We recommend soil be amended with compost, adding one part amendment to 3-4 parts of the original soil, or 20 to 25% amendment.*

**HAPPY PLANTING!**