

Organic fertilizer provides slow-release nourishment and adds organic matter to the soil.

Worm castings are a source of beneficial bacteria, trace minerals, humus and earthworm eggs.

Lava sand is a crushed volcanic material that has the ability to hold moisture so that it is available to the plant when needed.

Texas greensand is a natural source of iron (20%), potassium, silica and lots of trace minerals.

Dried molasses quickly stimulates microbial activity and also contain sulfur, potash and other trace minerals.

For those gardeners preparing smaller beds for the first time this mixture is available as **Redenta's Bed Prep**.

If you have heavy clay soil, add at least one 40 pound bag of **expanded shale**/150 square feet. Expanded shale is a gravel-size rock pumped full of air. It helps to aerate clay soil and improve drainage.

Work these amendments in to the existing native soil to a depth of 6 to 8 inches by hand or with a rototiller.

PLANT

Dig a hole exactly the same depth as or slightly higher (1") than the height of the plant ball in the container. The width of the hole should be two to three times as wide as the plant ball. **Add a handful of worm castings to the hole.**

Prepare a mixture of two tablespoons seaweed to one gallon of water. **The liquid seaweed solution is the "magic elixir" that will serve as an organic root stimulator** and is an important step in a successful planting.

Add mycorrhizal fungus at the time of planting. This beneficial fungus enhances the root systems of plants by greatly improving both water and nutrient absorption.

Remove the plant from its container by inverting the container and releasing the plant.

"Rough up" the root ball by pulling and/or cutting the roots so that they are no longer compacted but are loose. Don't be afraid to be aggressive — if you lose some of the soil around the plant, that's O.K. You are about to plant it in better soil anyway.

Thoroughly soak the roots by placing them in the **liquid seaweed** solution for a few minutes. Then saturate the hole with the solution. Place the saturated roots into the saturated hole and gently fill the hole with the soil you removed from the hole.

Finish off by watering the plant with more liquid seaweed solution.

MULCH

Add a 3" layer of shredded hardwood mulch or native cedar mulch (one cubic yard or 14 bags covers 110 sq. ft.) to keep the plant moist, control weed growth, and protect the plant against severe temperature swings.

Finely shredded hardwood mulch and native cedar mulch provide long-lasting protection and do not have a tendency to wash away.

"Set in" the mulch by patting it in with the back of your rake then wet it down well.

Pull the compost and the mulch back away from the crown of the plant and make sure there is no mulch on the plant stems or foliage.

CARE

Do not forget to give your plants the water they will need, particularly in the early stages.

For the first two weeks after planting give the soil around the base of the stems a good soaking every three or four days.

After that most plants require about one inch of water per week (sometimes more in the heat of the Texas summer or in sandy soils). Deep watering encourages deep roots. If the top 1 to 2 inches of soil are dry, the plants need water — then water until the top 4 to 6 inches are moist. Do not, however, leave plants in standing water or in a constant wet condition.

MAINTENANCE

To maintain your organic garden, fertilize the same as you do your lawn — organic granular fertilizer (**Redenta's Organic Fertilizer**) three times per year and foliar spray with **Garrett Juice** or **John's Recipe** every 6 to 8 weeks.

Top dressing with worm castings spring and fall keeps plants thriving, as would an inch of compost yearly. Feed blooming plants with Rose Food once or twice a year as well. Always keep plants well mulched.

Now, take a walk through your garden and experience gardening the way it was meant to be.



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PLANTING GUIDE

O.K., so you've got yourself this beautiful plant and are preparing to plant it in your garden. If you are like most other gardeners, you are worried that it will do well in your yard. Well, it will! The secret is using the proper organic planting technique.

PREPARE THE SOIL

The key is to make sure that the plant will be placed in soil that will provide it with all of the nutrients that the plant needs when it needs it. **Organic compost** plays a crucial role in this process. Compost is made up of naturally occurring materials that are in the process of decomposing and yielding a constant stream of nutrients and microorganisms that are readily available to the plants. Obviously, the first step is to get rid of all of the weeds and grass, if any. Remove them by digging or scraping out the top 2 to 3 inches. Do not till them under.

Add **4 inches of compost** (one cubic yard or 14 bags cover 80 sq. ft.) to the area to be planted along with the following amendments:

Organic fertilizer (**Redenta's Organic Fertilizer**) - 20 pounds/1000 square feet

Worm Castings - 20 pounds/1000 square feet

Lava Sand - 40 pounds/1000 square feet

Texas Greensand - 20 pounds/1000 square feet

Dried Molasses - 5 pounds/1000 square feet



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