

## **PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM YY GROWERS**

**Care of potted plant prior to planting:** Keep well-watered as plants have been used to a daily watering regime. Taper off in cooler weather. Fertilize sparingly with native fertilizer such as Osmocote or Gro Max. Use soluble fertilizer every month or so – Seasol/Powerfeed in parts 1: 4. If you have some Go Go juice from Neutrog add a splash of that into your 9 litre watering can. Pot on (to a larger pot) if you can't get into the ground within a month of purchase.

**\*Prepare a planting mix as follows:** Into 50 litres of basic native potting mix add 2 good handfuls of rock dust minerals, native fertilizer as above or Macrocoke (if you can source it, Mitre 10 Diamond Creek have it) & water saving granules. Not essential but you can also add some Coir fibre for water holding capacity, no more than 1/10 of the volume of your planting mix – half a 10 L bucket. When adding Coir fibre, sweeten the pH with a teaspoon of Dolomite lime. Mix all thoroughly.

**Planting:** Dig a hole (mattock/crowbar in some areas) that is 2 x width plant pot and ½ as deep again as pot. Add some planting mix\* to the hole, (similar amount to the pot it is in), then place plant in centre, teasing the roots gently at bottom and sides, fill the hole with planting mix and then also around the top of the plant, press in gently. Then hill up garden soil around plant, and create a well for water to soak into, or a swale of sorts on the downhill side to hold water & slow water loss.

Water in with diluted Seasol for first few times, then just water. Mulch with a good bark/native tree mulch or Scoria/Gravel in some cases depending on plant preferences. Scatter a handful of Neutrog Bush Tucker pelletised fertilizer onto mulch.

**Hardening off after planting:** Your plant has been used to daily watering. It will need to be weaned off over time. Best to plant over Autumn & Winter i.e. cooler weather. For first few weeks in the ground, water every second to third day unless it rains. Then once every week, then once per fortnight then every month. Water regularly over the first hot season to help the roots get themselves and their relationship with their neighbours sorted.

***Miriam Ford***