



I M P O R T A N T UNPACKING INSTRUCTIONS



- 1) **UNPACKING** - When your plants arrive, **unpack the box immediately**.
 - Be sure to carefully unpack all the layers in the carton.
 - Remove the black plastic wrap and shredded paper (used to retain soil/moisture during shipping).
 - Some of our plants (e.g. Orchids) are grown entirely in Sphagnum moss; this should not be removed.
 - Keep in mind that a strong, healthy root system is the most important feature of the plant; damaged foliage sometimes occurs in shipping, but the plant will soon recover with healthy roots.
 - Often leaves will yellow slightly in transit. This is especially true of Geraniums. However, the new growth will become the proper shade of green when the plant has recovered from shipping.
- 2) **WATERING** - Check each pot to see if it requires watering. Water those pots which are dry.
- 3) **TRANSITION** - Place all plants in a spot of moderate temperatures (65-75°), in good light (but out of hot, noon day sun) for a day or two until they adjust from shipping, then move them to their permanent location.
 - Check the catalog to determine the optimal light and temperature requirements for your plants.
 - Allow the plants a week to adjust to their new home before transplanting or fertilizing.
 - If you plan to plant them in the garden, slowly acclimatize them to the outdoors first by incrementally increasing exposure to outdoors and sunlight.



- 4) **REPOTTING** - Once your plants have acclimated from shipping, they will require repotting.
 - Repot into larger pot sizes gradually. For example, move a plant in a 2.5" pot into a 4" or 5" pot. Move a plant in a 4" pot into a 6-7" pot. The root system needs time to grow into each new pot.
 - Turn the pot upside down and gently tap the edge to release the root ball from the container.
 - Never pull on the stem of the plant: some plants, especially Bougainvilleas, have brittle roots which are easily severed.
 - When repotting, please do not fray the roots; the root system will easily expand into the new soil.

We guarantee the safe arrival of all of our plants; **PLEASE REPORT ANY DAMAGE OR POOR CONDITION WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ARRIVAL** to receive a replacement.

Good Luck with your new plants! Thank you for your business



Growers Since 1892

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GENERAL PLANT CARE INFORMATION

(for more specific information please see our website at <http://www.logees.com/ftg/index.asp>)

Pots and Soil

- When repotting, gradually increase the pot size to allow the roots to expand and regulate the moisture levels properly. Repotting into too large a pot too soon can increase susceptibility to root diseases.
- Clay pots are preferable, but do require more time for watering. Clay allows the soil to dry more rapidly, thus promoting a healthy root system. Plants grown in plastic pots require less frequent watering.
- During repotting, you will need to select a potting soil. We recommend purchasing a soil-less or peat-lite potting mix (such as ProMix, Sunshine Potting Soils or Fafard Potting Soil). These mixes are suitable for most of the plants found in our catalog.
- It is important to avoid soils that contain high concentrations of fertilizer, especially slow release fertilizers, because it becomes difficult to properly control the fertilizer level.

Watering - Proper watering is a key factor to success with potted plants. With few exceptions, you should wait until the soil looks dry (but the plant is not in a severe wilt) before watering. Give the plant a good drink and do not water again until the soil appears dry. Exceptions: Ferns should be kept evenly moist, bog plants should sit in water.

Light Level

- Sun-loving plants require a south, southwest or southeast window. Place the plants as close to the glass as possible. To encourage symmetrical growth in a windowsill, turn your plants regularly. A half turn once a week is adequate. In a greenhouse or sunroom, position your plants in fully exposed sun.
- For artificial light, select lights with the highest wattage available (fluorescent tube equals 40W, High Intensity Discharge lights [HID] are 150W to 1000W). We recommend using lights specifically designed for growing plants. Put the plants directly under the lights, but do not allow the leaves to touch the light source. With an abundance of light, flowering plants will be encouraged to form buds and grow into full, healthy specimens.
- Plants that prefer partial sun should be grown in an east or west exposure. Place the plants within two feet of the window. In a greenhouse or sun room, grow them in a partially shaded area or in a spot protected from the hot noonday sun. If the plants begin to "stretch" and look leggy, light levels should be increased.

Temperature

- Most plants tolerate a wide range of temperatures and will endure short periods of extreme variation.
- Exceptions include some Gesneriads (African violet family) and Fuchsias. Episcia in the Gesneriad family generally prefer a minimum nighttime temperature above 60° F. Temperatures falling below 60° F can result in plant damage. Fuchsias will not tolerate long periods of heat (above 90° F).
- Also, some plants require a cool period to encourage bud formation. A cool period (in the 40's and 50's) should be provided in the fall/winter as the days shorten.

Fertilizing

- We recommend a balanced fertilizer consisting of close to equal parts of the three major plant nutrients. An example is a 15-15-15 formulation which has 15 parts nitrogen, 15 parts phosphorous, and 15 parts potash. The recommended dilution of 15-15-15 is ¼-½ tsp. per gallon of water, applied once a week which gives an even, continuous supply of fertilizer to ensure steady growth. Other formulas like Electra organic fertilizer, which is 5-10-3, or Dyna-Gro, which is 7-9-5, are also excellent fertilizers for flowering plants.
- A note of caution, do not force the plant with high levels of fertilizer. Too much feeding creates soft growth and encourages disease and insects.
- Organic-based fertilizers, such as fish emulsion and seaweed fertilizers, are beneficial if used to compose a balanced program. Fish emulsion is an excellent fertilizer. However, in some formulations the high nitrogen content can increase leaf growth, stretch internodes and reduce flowering.

Humidity

- Humidity should be monitored (except for cacti), especially during the winter. Healthy plant growth is best maintained at levels above 50% relative humidity. However, most plants tolerate lower levels for short periods.
- When the air is dry, frequent misting or placing plants on pebble and water trays will help. Also, a humidifier in your indoor growing area during the height of the winter heating season is beneficial.

Pruning

- Pruning can be performed throughout the growth cycle to maintain size or fill out a loose, "scraggly" plant.
- Pruning creates multiple offshoots and thickens a plant's appearance. If a bushy, well-branched specimen is desired, pinch your young plants (once they have been repotted). Pinching means removing the growing tip. If the plants are taller, the tops (also called terminal growth) should be pruned, leaving at least two leaf nodes above the soil.
- One note of caution: on mature specimens only prune after flowering or at the beginning of their growing season in order to avoid delaying or interrupting flowering. Vining plants are an exception and need to be trained on a stake or trellis. They will make offshoots on their own. Other exceptions are: plants to be trained as topiaries or standards, plants that normally grow upward and need the height to begin flowering (e.g. Brugmansia), and plants that have already been pinched during the growing process before shipping. The latter can be determined by examining the young plants for previous cuts and a branching habit.

OTHER SOURCES FOR PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Logee's "from the growers" webpage - www.logees.com/ftg/index.asp

Logee's newsletter articles - www.logees.com/pages/articles.asp

Gardening Forums at Dave's Garden - www.davesgarden.com/forums/