PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Water the plants and planting area first. Never plant a dry plant or place a plant into dry soil.

- Dig a hole two to three times the width and slightly deeper than the root ball you are placing into the ground.

- If the soil appears to be clay or sand, work in one-third screened compost to two-thirds of the existing soil. Then mix bone meal or a transplant fertilizer such as Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer or E.B. Stone Sure Start into the planting hole.

- Fill the hole with enough amended soil so that when the plant is placed into the hole, the root ball will be slightly higher than the original soil level.

- Remove the plants from their containers. (If the plants are wrapped in burlap refer to the following bullet.) Loosen the roots around the edge. Set the plant carefully into the hole so as not to break up the root ball. Fill around the roots with amended soil.

- **Balled and burlapped:** Keep the burlap tied around the roots while you are checking the planting depth. Set the burlapped ball into place. Do not cut the string from the rootball until the plant is in its permanent place. Peel the burlap approximately ½ way back. Tuck the excess burlap into the hole. Fill around the root ball with amended soil.

- Water the new plants thoroughly. To reduce transplant shock, you may use Superthrive or Fertilome Root Stimulator in the water at the rate recommended on the package.

- **Staking Trees:** If a tree needs staking, stake low—2 to 3 feet from the ground if possible. This allows the tree tops to move in the wind and gain strength. Remove the stakes as soon as the tree is stable or after one year, whichever is sooner.

- Over watering plants is a very common mistake. Water newly transplanted plants when the soil on their rootballs gets on the dry side. Check often the first few months. Water well when you do water, but allow the soil to dry out slightly between waterings.