

FROM THE GROUND UP

Installing a Garden & Establishing New Plants

Bath Garden Club · A 20-Minute Guide

FLOURISH

Landscaping

What We'll Cover Today

01

Site Preparation

Right soil, right place, right season

02

Proper Installation Technique

How to plant for long-term success

03

Watering & First-Week Care

The critical establishment window

04

Mulching & Soil Health

Protecting roots and retaining moisture

05

Signs of Stress & Recovery

Reading your plants and responding

Pat & Don's New Garden

BEFORE



AFTER



When & Where to Plant

BEST TIMING

- ◆ Early spring before heat stress begins
- ◆ Fall – cooler temps aid root establishment
 - ➔ nursery stock less reliable
- ◆ Overcast or drizzly days reduce transplant shock
- ◆ Avoid peak summer heat and hard frosts
 - ➔ May 20th is safe to avoid frost.
- ◆ Morning planting preferred over afternoon

SITE PREPARATION

- ◆ Test soil drainage before digging
 - ➔ Bath is known for Clay
- ◆ Match sun exposure to plant needs
- ◆ Clear competing weeds & debris
- ◆ Amend soil with compost if needed
- ◆ Mark underground utilities first

Planting for Long-Term Success

1

Dig the Right Hole

2-3× wider than the root ball, same depth. A wide hole loosens surrounding soil so roots can spread easily.

2

Inspect & Loosen Roots

Gently tease apart circling or pot-bound roots. Remove dead or damaged roots with clean shears.

3

Set the Crown Correctly

The root flare should sit at or slightly above soil level. Planting too deep is the #1 cause of tree decline.

4

Backfill & Firm Gently

Use the native soil – no need to 'improve' the backfill. Firm soil in layers to eliminate air pockets.

5

Water Deeply, Then Wait

Soak thoroughly at planting. Let the soil guide the next watering – check 2" down before watering again.

The Critical Establishment Window

Day 1

Deep soak immediately after planting – water should reach full root depth

Week 1

Water every 2-3 days. Check soil moisture 2" down before each watering

Month 1

Water weekly during dry spells. Roots are anchoring – don't saturate

Season 2+

Most plants become self-sufficient; water during drought only

Protect Roots, Retain Moisture

✓ DO

- ◆ Apply 2-3" of organic mulch
- ◆ Keep mulch away from stems (leave a 2" gap)
- ◆ Use shredded bark, wood chips, or straw
- ◆ Extend mulch to the drip line
- ◆ Refresh annually as it breaks down

✗ DON'T

- ✗ Pile mulch against trunks ("volcano mulching")
- ✗ Apply more than 4" deep – roots suffocate
- ✗ Use dyed or rubber mulch near edibles
- ✗ Mulch over wet, compacted soil
- ✗ Forget to check for pest habitat buildup

Reading Your Plants & Responding

Symptom	Likely Cause	What to Do
Wilting despite moisture	Root damage or shock	Reduce sun exposure temporarily; do not overwater
Yellowing lower leaves	Overwatering / poor drainage	Check soil drainage; let soil dry between waterings
Leaf scorch at edges	Heat or underwatering	Water deeply; add shade cloth during heat waves
Little to no new growth	Normal – roots establishing	Be patient; roots develop before visible top growth

Remember: Transplant shock is normal. Most plants recover with patience and consistent care.

Take This Home with You

Before Planting

- Choose right plant for the right place
- Check drainage & amend if needed
- Pick a cool or overcast planting day
- Have mulch ready to apply

At Planting

- Dig hole 2-3× wider than root ball
- Set crown at or above soil level
- Backfill with native soil, firm gently
- Water deeply immediately after

After Planting

- Apply 2-3" mulch, keep away from stem
- Monitor soil moisture daily – week one
- Watch for stress signals
- Avoid fertilizing for 4-6 weeks

Happy Planting!

Every plant deserves a great start. With good timing, proper technique, and consistent care – yours will thrive.

For any questions do not hesitate to call Tristan at 613-329-4994

20% Off Connon's Order

As a special thank you to the Bath Garden Club member's we will be compiling a list of plants at Connon's. To receive 20% off your order please have the order submitted to Tristan by May 15th 2026. This discount is for perennials and trees only

Send your orders to Tristan at admin@flourishlandscaping.ca