



RiverSmart Maintenance Assistance Program

Fall 2019

TRANSPLANTING FOR RIVERSMART GARDENS

Of the many benefits RiverSmart rain gardens and BayScapes provide - clean air and water, wildlife habitat, enhancement of human well being - minimal maintenance for native plants, which saves time and money, is an important one. Natives require very little care throughout their natural life cycle. There are situations, however, when it is necessary to move plants to a new location for example when a shrub begins to grow into other plantings. Below is a step-by-step guide for transplanting into or out of your RiverSmart garden.

Site Selection

Step #1: For the plant you are moving, make sure the new site selected has the necessary sun, soil, water, and space requirements.

Weather Considerations

Step #2: Transplanting should occur when the soil is workable, not frozen or saturated from heavy rains. The ideal season to move plants is in the fall at least five weeks before the first frost is expected. Spring is also a great time to move plants once the ground has thawed for good.

Step #3: Transplanting is best in the morning or late afternoon, during the cooler hours of the day.

Plant Preparation

Step #4: If the weather has been dry, water plants generously the day before transplanting.

Step #5: On the day of the move use a spade to dig around the plant base at least 6 inches from the main stem, taking care to remove with the roots intact. If the roots are tightly bound, loosen for better contact with the new soil. Cover the roots with damp newspaper so they will not dry out.

Soil Preparation

Step #6: Dig a hole twice as wide but no deeper than the root ball. Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole.

Step #7: Move the plant into place and add a combination of $\frac{2}{3}$ original garden soil and $\frac{1}{3}$ compost back into the hole. Take care to fill the hole to the level of the root crown, neither burying or leaving it exposed. The crown is the part of the plant where the roots meet the stem and where the transfer of energy and nutrients occurs.

Mulch & Water

Step #8: Once plants are in their new locations, water thoroughly and add a 3" layer of undyed, shredded bark mulch to retain moisture. Water transplants regularly for at least three months.