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## Fall Best Time To Transplant

### Moving May Be Done Any Time Of Year If Sufficient Roots And Soil Are Taken Up

If plants are taken up with sufficient roots and soil, they can be transplanted at any time of year, says John H. Harris, Extension landscape specialist. The best time, however for most plants is in the fall. Plants that are set in the fall have time to start root growth before top growth starts in the spring, but if fall planting is not feasible, winter or spring planting usually proves satisfactory.

If the plant to be moved is a deciduous plant, it is not necessary to remove a ball of earth with the plant. Care should be taken, however, to remove all the roots possible and to avoid bruising the roots. It will be found helpful in moving a native plant to dig a trench around its base one growing season before moving it. This trench should be dug 18 to 24 inches deep, the distance from the plant varying with the size of the plant. The object in digging the trench is to stimulate the plant to grow fine roots near its base.

After the plant is removed from the soil, it should be immediately planted in its new position. If it is to be transferred some distance before replanting, it should be packed in shavings or at least a wet sack kept around its roots. It is essential that the roots be kept moist until the plant is reset.

Evergreens should be treated like deciduous shrubs, except they are usually dug with a ball of earth. A two to six foot native plant is generally the best size to move. This does not mean that larger shrubs or plants cannot be moved successfully. Full grown trees and shrubs may be transplanted, but a tremendous root system must be taken up with the plant which makes the plant expensive and laborous to save.

The hole should be dug considerably larger and deeper than is necessary to take care of the longest roots. This surplus space should be filled with a good grade of topsoil. In digging the hole, the topsoil should be piled to one side and the subsoil on the other. The topsoil should be used in filling the hole.

The plant should be placed in the hole the same depth around its roots until the hole is three-fourths filled. If the soil is ex-

tremely dry or if the plant is moved during the growing season, the plant should be watered. The remainder of the soil should then be filled in without packing. When the hole has been filled in, it is desirable to leave a slightly depressed hole around the center of the plant to collect water. Unless the ball of dirt is wrapped with water proof paper, it is not necessary to remove the wrapping. The top of the burlap may be cut from around the top of the ball, pushed down, and covered with dirt. Trees or shrubs over four feet high should be anchored to prevent their being blown about by the wind.

If plants are being planted in a border, the entire plant bed should be prepared and fertilized instead of each individual hole. The fertilizer, preferably manure, should be worked into the soil and not placed in the hole with the plant. If manure is used, the ground may be covered one or two inches deep, and the manure then thoroughly mixed with the soil. If a commercial fertilizer such as 6-8-8 is used, it may be applied at the rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet. For individual plants 1/4 to 1/2 pint should be sufficient, depending on the size of the plant. A mulch of straw, leaves or similar material should be used to help hold mois-

ture. This mulch, when decayed, will add organic matter to the soil.

Normally, the top of any plant is in balance with the root system. When a plant is dug, there is usually a tremendous loss of

roots. This loss is much greater than the average person would think. Obviously, the way to rebalance the plant is to remove some of the top. The amount of top to be removed will depend, of course, on the loss of roots when

the plant was taken up. The removal of one-third of the top is a very general rule to follow. The cutting back should conform to the natural shape of the plant.

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