

Live Plug Planting Techniques

1. **Before your plants arrive make sure that you have completed your site preparation.**
2. **Be ready to water.** Watering plant plugs is critical to their success. Be ready with a sprinkler before you begin to plant. Water seedlings immediately after they are planted.
3. **Plan to place live plants in ground soon after you receive them.** If you must keep them a few days before planting, keep them in an area with partial sun such as on the east side of a building or under a deciduous tree. Do not leave them in a dark area for long periods; this will weaken plants. Water to keep packs moist once or twice a day depending on the wind and temperature
4. **Plant in the cool hours of the day.** Your plants will have a greater survival rate if planted on a cool day or during the morning or evening hours.
5. **Plan your planting scheme.** Spacing of 12-18” between plants is recommended. For a more natural look, plant species in groups of 3-5. Lay plants out where you plan to plant but do not remove plugs from containers until ready to actually put in hole.
6. **Dig holes for your plants.** Move mulch aside before digging hole. Make sure the holes for the plants penetrate the dead grass and are deep enough to accommodate the root mass. A bulb planter or “bulb planter auger drill bit” for planting works well.
7. **As you are ready to plant each plug** – carefully remove the plug from the container by turning the plant upside down in your hand and gently squeezing the container until the root mass comes out. Gently tease the root tips away from the root mass to encourage good root growth. Place the plant in the hole. Replace soil, tamp down gently, and replace mulch being careful to keep mulch ½” away from stem of plant.
8. **Water.** Don’t forget this important step to give your plants a good start! Plan to water daily for the first two months. See the Long Term Care and Maintenance section to learn more about weeding.



**Terrace Park During Planting
Delavan, WI. 2001**