

Top Tropicals Garden Center

13890 Orange River Blvd, Ft Myers, FL 33905

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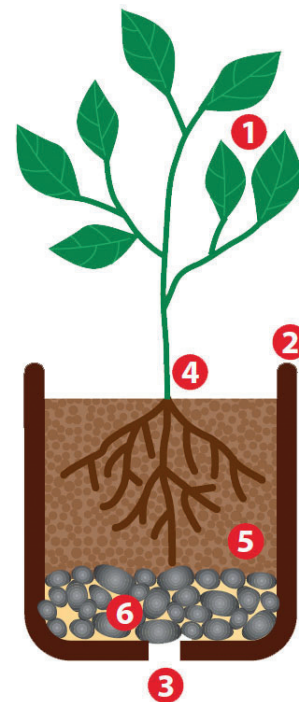
web: www.TopTropicals.com • email: info@toptropicals.com

TopTropicals.com
We Grow Happiness

READ THIS PAGE FIRST!

Planting Instructions and Care of Mail Order Plants

- **Unpack the box immediately.** Carefully remove all plants from packing materials.
- **Begin with a small pot. Do not plant directly into the ground.** Position a plant vertically and centered (1). Use a container about the size of the root ball until the plant is recovered and established (from 5-7 days to 2-3 weeks). Plastic pots with vertical walls (2) and large drainage holes (3) are recommended; do not use ceramic pots, as they retain water and block air circulation.
- **Plant at the same root level.** Set the roots into the soil with the growing point at the same level with the soil surface (4). If the plant is set too deep — the stem may rot.
- **Potting mix.** Use a well-draining potting mix containing peat moss, perlite and/or pine bark (5) (available from our store). Do not use top soil or any other garden soil for potting! A drainage layer (river rock, pebbles) is beneficial (6).
- **Water.** Water only if soil is dry and let drain. Mist foliage with pure water. Don't water again if the soil is wet!
- **Leaves and stems.** Remove any yellowed leaves or damaged branches using sharp clippers.
- **Light. Do not plant out of package directly into a full sun!** Place the pot in bright shade, away from direct sun, for a few days, until the plant recovers from shipping stress.
- **Re-potting or in-ground planting.** Allow 1-2 weeks (or more) for recovery before re-potting or planting directly into the ground. Once the plant starts producing new growth, it's time to move it into a permanent place. Move the potted plant gradually from shade to its permanent sunny location. After planting in the ground, it may be necessary to cover the plant with a shade cloth or a sheet for a few days, to reduce planting stress.
- **Do not fertilize right away.** Wait 2-3 weeks to fertilize. For faster recovery from shipping stress, apply Sunshine-Epi solution as foliar spray. Once the plant is established, use Liquid Sunshine Boosters (year around) and smart-release granulated fertilizer (during warm season only). Refer to our website for fertilizers and boosters for particular plants.
- **Temperature.** Most of our plants are tropical and shouldn't be exposed to low temperatures (below 50F) for extended periods.



Your plants have just spent several days traveling in a box...

Shipping sometimes can cause stress to plants. This can be seen through the dropping, discoloring or wilting of leaves. With proper care, time for re-adjustment and some TLC, your plant will recover and thrive.

When shipping your plant, we aim to minimize movement of the plant in transit. That may mean folding the leaves in awkward positions, or trimming leaves and branches to lessen the burden of transit. As your plant acclimates to its freedom of restraint, these leaves and branches will return to their comfortable positions.

Our Guarantees

We guarantee that we ship only healthy plants, but cannot guarantee the long-term survival, since proper care of the plants is now in your hands and cannot be verified. If you have concerns about the health of your plant on arrival, **please contact us in writing within 3 days of receipt, via email or contact form (TopTropicals.com/contact)**. Our customer service department will ask you for photographs of your plant(s), and will provide care advice.

IN-GROUND PLANTING IN TROPICAL/ SUBTROPICAL AREAS

Please read reverse side first, **do not plant directly from package into the ground!**

1. Dig a hole at least 2-3 times the diameter of the container. Some trees develop shallow root systems and a wider planting hole can make a significant difference in the rate of establishment. Some areas have alkaline soil or extremely low organic matter, and we recommend digging a large hole (1) and modifying the soil by adding peat moss, and/or composted (not fresh!) manure. Mix components directly in the planting hole, adding slow release fertilizer containing micro-elements. Soak soil mix in the hole and let it settle.

2. Prepare the plant. Pull container away from the root ball. Don't pull the tree out by its trunk. With small containers, hold the plant at the top of the root ball and turn it upside down. Tap the sides to loosen the container and let the root ball slide out. For larger containers, simply tilt the pot onto its side, tap it lightly, and gently slide out the root ball. You can also cut the container off. Container plants tend to grow roots in circles. If the plant is root bound, make a few vertical cuts with a sharp knife down the roots to encourage sideways growth (2).

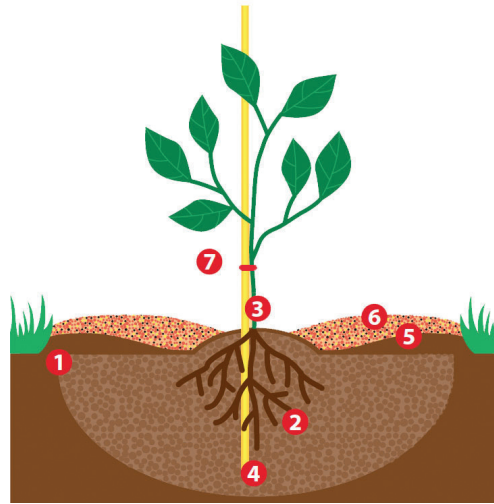
3. Positioning the plant. This is the most important part of your planting project. Place the root ball in the center of the hole and adjust the tree so it is straight and **at the proper level**. Be sure the growing point stays slightly higher (3), and that no extra soil is put on top of it. The base of the trunk should remain uncovered as it was in the pot. It is recommended to create a 3-4" mound instead of flattening the mix to the same level as the surrounding ground. The elevated position of the growing point is especially important for areas with rainy seasons. Make sure the soil mix is compacted under the root ball (4) so the plant won't "sink down". If part of the trunk falls below ground level, it will rot. Keep in mind that any fresh porous mix will compress with time; after a few waterings, the tree may begin to sink another 1" or so. Add extra soil underneath the root ball if needed.

4. Filling in. Fill the hole in and around the root ball with prepared soil mix. Tap the soil around the root ball gently with your foot. When the hole is half full, fill the remaining space with water to settle the soil, and allow it to drain. Repeat until the hole is full. Use extra dirt taken out of the hole to create a "bagel" around your newly planted tree (5). Put it around the new planting in the shape of a ring, around 2 ft in diameter and only 1" high; this will create an additional barrier to retain water during the establishing period.

5. Mulching. Cover the entire planting area with 2-3 inches of mulch (6). A layer of mulch will reduce water loss, competition from weeds, and will moderate soil temperature in hot weather. Make sure mulch is 2 inches away from the trunk (3) to avoid rotting. This is of a vital importance! If the trunk base is suffocated with soil or mulch, it may cause mold, risking the plant's life.

6. Watering. Water is absolutely essential for new plants. Provide regular hose-watering during the first 2-3 months. Do not rely on a sprinkler system.

7. Staking. We recommend staking plants (7), as it prevents dislodging by wind, people, and animals. Make sure ties do not cause damage to the bark. The stakes can be removed after 1-2 growing seasons.



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
1911 S.W. 34th St. / P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville, FL 32614-7100

GENERAL NURSERY STOCK INSPECTION CERTIFICATE
Registration Number 47233199
Section 581.031(21), F.S.

TOP TROPICALS LLC
13890 Orange River Blvd, Ft Myers, FL 33905

This is to certify that this nursery stock has been visually inspected for plant pests and meets at least the minimum requirements of Chapter 581, Florida Statutes.

Charles H. Bronson
CHARLES H. BRONSON
Commissioner of Agriculture

DACS 08011, Revised 11/99

STATE OF FLORIDA
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TEXAS CERTIFICATE
Section 581.031(23)(a)F.S.

TOP TROPICALS LLC
Nematode Certification Number 2450
Nursery Registration Number 47233199

This is to certify that the materials in this shipment Have been examined and found apparently free of burrowing nematode and meet the requirements for Texas Quarantine 4TAC, Chapter P. Diaprepes root weevil

DACS - 08049 Revised 09/03
This certificate is valid unless revoked for cause

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"MAIL ORDER ONLY"
Section 581.031(23)(a)F.S.

TOP TROPICALS LLC
Nematode Certification Number 2450
Nursery Registration Number 47233199

This is to certify that the material in this shipment meets the requirements of California quarantines (C.A.C. Sections 3252, 3271, 3282, 3279, 3264, 3263, 3283)

DACS - 08049 Revised 09/03
This certificate is valid unless revoked for cause

