# Loosen soil to awaken lazy roots

Have you ever lost a perfectly healthy plant even though you carefully followed the planting instructions?

A beautiful azalea or rhododendron grown in a can or a burlap bag lowered into the proper size hole and carefully watered later dies for no apparent reason.

But when you excavate to toss it out, the diagnosis is very clear. The roots stopped growing and the plant just died. The original soil mass never made any growth out into its new surroundings and that's what is meant by "lazy roots."

It is believed that many plants have real difficulty penetrating from one type of soil into another. even if the new type of medium is considered superior. To make the transition easier, there are several things you can do:

- Loosen the soil of the hole into which the plant is to be placed.

- Soak the entire plant, not just the roots, for several hours and with your fingers separate the roots gently. This will loosen the soil and help prevent them from continuing their growth in the same circular pattern they followed in the container.

- If the soil ball is a dense mass of roots that have actually out-grown their container, separate them even more and trim some of

- If you remove much of the root system, cut off an equal amount of the top growth.

Place the wet and loosened soil ball into the carefully prepared hole and fill in around the roots with the ground soil. Mixing the two soils at point of contact helps the roots to cope with the "interface" normally caused when two different soils meet.

There is some evidence that soaking the shrub or plant in quite warm water will act as a further stimulant or adjustment and a healthy root development.

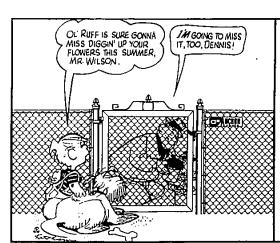
Excellent results have been reported by adding Ortho's Up-Start 5-15-5 to this pre-planting water and then using it as a booster fertilizer for several applications. The higher proportion of phosphorus in the formula (5 nitrogen, 15 phosphorus, 5 potassium) plus the hormone-like root stimulator promote earlier and stronger root structure and seems to reduce transplanting shock.



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	Cost Per
Lawn Size	Application
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5,000	19.00
6,000	21.00
7,000	23.00
8,000	25.00
9,000	27.00
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15,000	39.00
20,000 ,	49.00

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