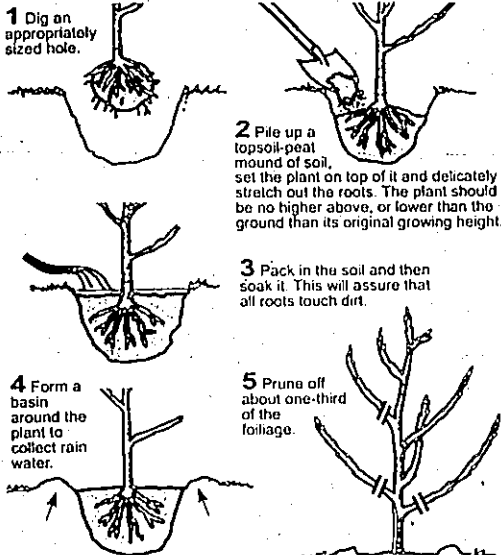


GARDEN TIPS

Exposed-root planting

If you're going to be transplanting this spring and have dug up or received plants with exposed, loose roots, some precautions should ensure a healthy, living addition to your home or garden.



SOURCE: Nature's Design, Carol A. Smyser

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

Garden facts you may not know

- Trees speak a language of their own. An oak tree planted in your front yard signifies hospitality; orange trees offer generosity. For a mixed message, plant apple trees (temptation, of course) and linden trees (conjugal love).
- Some houseplants are poisonous if ingested. Avoid aloe, amaryllis, English ivy and oleander. For cats, yew, philodendron and lily of the valley are no-nos.
- Common pests of houseplants include aphids, fungus gnats, mealybugs, scale, spider mites and whiteflies. Washing plant leaves with mild soap is one way to battle bugs.
- Basil is one of the most-popular

culinary herbs. It was once believed to aid digestion, cure earaches and combat fungus infection, as well as aid childbirth.

- The rose family includes strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, cherries, plums, apples, pears, peaches and apricots. Once worn by harlots as the emblem of Venus, the flower became a talisman against witchcraft in medieval churches.

- Vanilla flavoring comes from a small, yellowish-green orchid. More than 90 percent of the world's vanilla comes from Madagascar and the Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean, and from Indonesia.

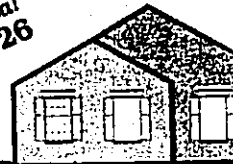
— Copley News Service

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