

Care for your new CA native plant (Fall Season)

While your native plant is ready to plant it is generally too hot and dry until late October or even later. It will have a much better chance of survival if it is kept in a shady place and watered regularly until it is cooler and hopefully wetter. Placing them in a large shallow pan and keeping an inch of water in the pan is a simple way to keep them healthy until planting.

When ready to plant dig a hole twice as wide as the plant and soak the hole and then let the water seep into the ground. You don't need soil amendments but it doesn't hurt to add some compost and a bit of organic fertilizer to give it a running start. Building a dirt rim around the plant (the size of the hole) will keep your watering from running elsewhere, and direct the moisture down to the roots. After planting, water it deeply at least once a week until the rains start.

Once the hot weather hits they will still need to be watered at least once a week (or more) until they establish an extensive root system (the 2nd year). A drip irrigation system is a good way to get this done and keep water use to a minimum. A moisture meter will help to prevent overwatering.

Wetland plants and coastal plants need more water through the hotter months for their entire lives.

Much more info can be found on our web site at:

<https://www.sacvalleycnps.org/gardening-resources/>