

Tilly

BOTANICAL STAGING

DENVER, COLORADO

PURPOSE

The goal of this package is to give the property a clean and organized look. To achieve this goal, strategic placement of a few shrubs and pops of color will make the space feel fresh and give the prospective homeowner a sense of the potential for the landscape.

INSTALLATION STEPS

STEP 1: Clear area of miscellaneous garbage or debris.

STEP 2: Purchase items on shopping list. Store plants in cool, shaded area and water as necessary to keep soil moist.

STEP 3: Remove all weeds. Use Scythe Organic Herbicide if permitted.

STEP 4: Sweep polymeric sand between flagstones per manufacturers directions to help secure the stones in place or use mulch to keep out weeds.

STEP 5: Loosen soil by raking any areas to be planted. Mulch designated areas to remain bare with 3" layer of mulch.

STEP 6: Reset boulders.

STEP 7: Plant all shrubs per directions in the installation guide included in this package. Water plants.

STEP 8: Mulch around installed plants with 3" layer of mulch. Water plants.

STEP 9: Fill planters with potting soil and plant annuals.

STEP 10: Use large shears to prune existing maple into a "shrub" size. Prune any other existing plants that are overgrown.

STEP 11: Use blower or broom to clear away any loose soil or other debris.



SHOPPING LIST

- Scythe Organic Herbicide (optional)
- Polymeric sand (optional)
- Shredded hardwood mulch (3" layer in all areas)
- Potting soil
- House numbers
- Large shears and/or hand pruners
- Blower or large broom
- Gardening gloves
- Gardening rake
- 6-10 ornamental grasses or succulents (2 Gallons)
- 6-8 medium size shrubs (3 Gallons). Consider time of sale when making deciduous/evergreen selection.
- Seasonal annuals to fill pots

CLEAN UP, MULCH, RESET ALL BOULDERS TO HAVE ONE LINE AND ALSO BE SPORADIC

CLEAN UP AND MULCH

NEW HOUSE NUMBERS



RANDOM SPORADIC PLANTING.
GRASS OR SUCCULENT- ALL
ONE SPECIES- (6-10) PLANTS

REPLANT POT WITH FULL, FRESH,
AND COLORFUL ANNUALS

TAME EXISTING MAPLE
INTO A "SHRUB"



REMOVE EXISTING
GARGABE AND DEBRIS

ELIMINATE WEED TREES

REPLANT POT WITH FULL, FRESH,
AND COLORFUL ANNUALS

WEED AND MULCH
AS APPLICABLE

ADD A FEW MEDIUM SIZE
PLANTS TO SOFTEN WALL

WEED AND MULCH BEDS



REPLANT POT WITH FULL, FRESH,
AND COLORFUL ANNUALS

CLEAN OUT ALL WEEDS. USE SCYTHER ORGANIC
HERBICIDE IF PERMITTED.
ALTERNATE: SWEEP JOINTS IN STONES WITH POLY-
MERIC SAND PER MANUFACTURERS DIRECTIONS.

ADD A FEW MEDIUM PLANTS TO SOFTEN FENCE. CONSIDER TIME OF SALE WHEN MAKING DECIDUOUS/ EVERGREEN SELECTION.



WEED AND MULCH

WEED AND MULCH. POLYMERIC SAND AS APPLICABLE.

WEED AND MULCH. POLYMERIC SAND AS APPLICABLE.



WEED AND MULCH. POLYMERIC SAND AS APPLICABLE.

PLANTING REFERENCE GUIDE

- Who is doing the work? You, someone in your family, or an outside contractor?
- Who will be supplying the plants? Plant material is both expensive and cumbersome to move. You will likely need a large truck to bring the material to your house.
- Where do the utilities run into the house? Digging holes may disrupt existing lines. Call 811 or have your contractor call at least two weeks prior to installation. It's a free call and all your utilities within the described work area will be located and flagged.

FIRST STEPS:

1. **Demo:** Remove any existing plants that are no longer compatible with the design vision.
 - With most plants, just removing the primary stems and roots will suffice to eliminate them.
 - In some rare cases (bamboo, Japanese knotweed...) it will take time and effort. Drop us a note if you have any stubborn weeds and Tilly will provide additional advice.
2. **Transplanting:** Are there some great elements that are remaining in your new design? Dig around these carefully (about 1 foot out from the center for every 2 feet of plant height) and set them aside in the SHADE until you're ready to use them.
 - If they will be sitting for more than 48 hours, the root balls should be wrapped in burlap. The faster you can get them to their new homes, the better.
 - Water immediately upon replanting and then put the transplants on the same regimen at the rest of your new garden.
3. **Raking:** Level out the area to be planted. You will need to layout the new plants in their future locations before actually planting. This is almost impossible to do if the soil surface is uneven.
4. **Soil Amendments:** This is a HUGE grey area. Every landscaper, gardener, and landscape architect will offer different (and often conflicting!) advice.
 - At Tilly we sing the praises of compost. We believe it is always better to improve the soils you have than bring in (foreign) topsoil that will not mesh well with your existing conditions.
 - In a perfect world you will spread 2-4" of compost across the entire planting area and till into the soil to a depth of 12-18". Honestly, so long as you can get SOME compost onto the area and backfill your plants with a mix of compost and soil you'll be in good shape. If you want more on soil amendments give us a shout.

PLANTING:

1. **Layout:** Try to have all of the plants on site if you can. Set them out in the garden in their approximate locations, and then stand back. Does that dogwood encroach too closely on a window? Is that hydrangea little too far away from its neighbors? Is there is a better "face" for that tree? Make the necessary adjustments...now is the time! This is much harder once the material is in the ground.
2. **Planting:**
 - ◊ Trees:
 - Dig a hole that's twice as wide as the pot or root ball but NO deeper. In fact, you should consider planting your tree above the soil 6-8" initially (more later about root flares...)
 - For balled-and-burlapped trees (preferred!), unwrap the burlap from the trunk and peel at least halfway down the root ball. Cut and peel back at least half of any wire baskets – remove wire completely if possible. Straighten tree (try not to pull on the trunk, straighten by shifting the root ball) and backfill hole with existing soil mixed with compost.
 - If the tree is potted (less preferable), loosen the soil around the roots, especially if they are up near the trunk and/or tightly running in circles, then place the tree into the planting hole and treat as above.
 - Water immediately. Best to put a hose near the trunk and turn on to a slow dribble for about 30 minutes depending on the size of the tree.
 - ◊ Shrubs:
 - Plant shrubs in a hole that's about twice the diameter of the root ball. The top of the root ball should be slightly above the surrounding soil level.
 - Backfill hole with existing soil mixed with compost
 - Water at the shrub's base immediately with a slowly running hose for about 20 minutes.
 - ◊ Perennials:
 - Set these plants in soil at the same level they were growing in the pot.
 - Firm the soil around each plant with your hands, then water thoroughly.
 - ◊ Annuals:
 - Set out and dig in so soil levels are equal.
 - Firm soil around each plant and water.
 - ◊ Bulbs:
 - There are a number of different planting methods for bulbs depending on the desired effect.
 - We are big fans of "Top Planting" and "Slice and Toss" – both advocate minimal planting depths (2-4" less than as noted on the bulb packaging), and no consideration for bulb orientation.
 - Drop us a note for more info on bulb planting.

FINISHING UP:

1. **Mulch:** A layer of clean, organic mulch does WONDERS for your new plantings. It keeps in moisture, suppresses weeds, regulates the soil temperature, and breaks down into nutritious compost.
 - For this first year apply 2-3" of mulch around all new plants taking care to keep it away from direct stem contact.
 - Resist the urge to buy a dyed or synthetic mulch. Although the longevity of such products may make them attractive, they won't provide any (needed!) nutritional value to your plants. Furthermore, many of the dyed products are actually ground up pressure treated lumber... complete with all the chemical additives.
 - Re-mulch yearly. While this may seem extravagant, it is an important way to protect your investment. You don't want to OVER mulch (never more than 2-3" cumulatively), but a fresh layer will spruce up your beds and add fresh organic material to your soils.
2. **Water:** This is often the hardest part. In general, your new plants need water to establish their root systems. However, the amounts can vary significantly depending on weather conditions and soil capacity.
 - Keep your plants moist throughout the first growing season, but be on the lookout for any yellowing leaves – this could be a sign of too much water or not enough drainage.
 - After the first season your plant's roots will have expanded and they won't require the same amount of water. Supplementing during dry periods is a good idea, but always remember it's best to water less for longer durations than often and briefly.

Considerations when hiring an outside contractor:

- How confident are you in their abilities? Do they have any knowledge of plant material?
- How well do they listen to you? Do you feel confident they will follow the plans you provide?
- Make sure they are providing some kind of guarantee on their work. Guarantees may vary by location and plant species, but make sure there is a measure of accountability in place to be sure all is installed correctly.

Consider an Irrigation System

- Even drought resistant and low maintenance plant material requires water to establish.
- Our climate is changing and weather patterns are becoming more erratic. You should not have to run your irrigation system every day, but it's a good insurance policy to protect your investment if there is a prolonged dry spell.

Root Flares

- This is the bell like portion of the tree where it meets the ground.
- Due to the way most of the trees are grown in the nursery industry these flares are often buried 4-12" BELOW the soil when they arrive from the nursery.
- Do your very best to gently clear away the soil after planting to expose these flares. If you have a local arborist they may be able to use an airspade to blow the soil away.
- Root flare exposure will limit the likelihood of girdling roots and help improve the success and longevity of your trees.

How fast will my plants grow?

- They all have different rates and conditions but generally keep in mind the Old Gardener's Adage "The first year they SLEEP, the second they CREEP, and the third they LEAP!"

Don't be a stranger! Tilly loves questions! Email us any time at design@tilly-design.com