

Seeding, Weeding

and mulch more

For the avid gardener



CREAMERY - With the springand-summer planting season here many gardeners will be bringing plants home from the local nurseries and garden center.

Most plants will adapt to the mild condition changes of your garden. The more mistakes you make, however, the harder it will be for your plants to survive, warns County Agent Paul Reber. If you make one or more of the following mistakes when you select, plant or care for your new plant, you might not be satisfied with the outcome:

• Buying the wrong plant. The problem is usually not the plant but the location of the plant in your container grown plants are garden or landscape."All too often

because they are attractive or unusual, not because the plant has a chance to survive under the conditions of their garden," Reber says, "A similar problem occurs when the plant grows too large for landscape design.'

· Setting the plant too deep. People tend to set plants too deeply into the soil. This will cause problems with most plants. Barerooted plants can be slightly lower with little harm. Plants that are container-grown and balled or burlapped should be slightly higher in the hole than the surrounding soil line.

· Setting a dry plant. Most produced with an artificial gardeners purchase plants material around their root system.

When this high organic material dries out, it can be very difficult to wet again. If dry plants are not watered well, the drying process continues in the hole and the plant

• Forgetting to water plants. Newly set plants need a thorough watering, even if the soil around them is moist. The first watering after planting will settle the soil and remove any air pockets which often reduce root expansion into the backfill soil.

• Digging a small hole. Many gardeners will make a planting hole just large enough for the root ball. Even if these plants are given optimum care, they seldom grow properly or survive very long. A in a specific element, most plants

hole one and a half times the root diameter is considered ideal.

· Preparing backfill soil. The horticulture industry is beginning to get away from amending backfill soil with large amounts of organic matter. Bare-root plants can be backfilled with good oil that came from the hole. Containergrown and balled or burlapped plants still should get some organic matter in the backfill soil to produce a transition between the soil around the root ball and the

site's soil. • Using too much fertilizer. The new roots that a plant sends out can be easily burned by the salt in fertilizer. Unless the soil tests low

will establish very well with light applications of fertilizer or no fertilizer at all.

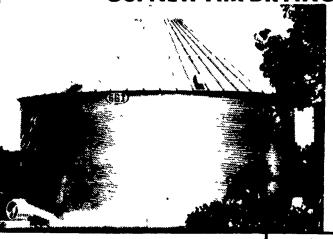
• Forgetting to water plants in the summer. First-year plants need extra water during their period of establishment.

• Forgetting to mulch. A mulch 3 to 4 inches deep will keep the soil moist, hold down weed growth and give the planted area a better appearance.

There is no positive way to assure success with every planting," Reber concludes. "But if you avoid the above mistakes before, during or after planting, you garden will have a better chance for success."

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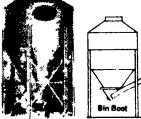
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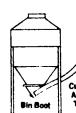
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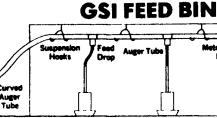


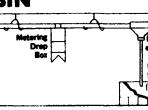
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