

URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

How to: Care after transplanting

Some new gardeners may think once they plant seedlings or new plants in the garden or in a flower bed, they are ready to enjoy the plant's growth and the plant only needs some water and sun and maybe a little fertilizer to thrive and do what it's supposed to do. However, this is incorrect. There's something known as "transplant shock," which can cause problems in plants.

Tranplant shock will likely occur each time you transplant something, but there are certain actions that can be taken to prevent the damages or to cure the plant of transplant shock symptoms once they occur.

Avoiding transplant shock:

Here are some actions to take to protect against transplant shock:

Care for the roots: When transplanting something, try to disturb the roots as little as possible. Don't shake off any dirt from the roots, and make sure you bring as many of the roots with the plant when transplanting as possible.

Water after transplanting: As soon as you transplant, make sure the plant receives plenty of water to help it get settled into its new home.

Keep the root ball moist: Make sure you don't store your dug-up plant in a dry area for too long, because it's important the root ball stays moist when transplanting.



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Curing transplant shock:

If transplant shock occurs in your plant, there are actions you can take to help cure it and make sure it doesn't remain damaged and doesn't die.

Sugar: Adding a weak sugar and water solution can help a plant recover from transplant shock. It is fine to just use any type of plain sugar from the grocery store.

Trimming: It's possible that trimming back the plant may help with transplant shock. This allows the plant to focus more of its energy on growing the roots. For perennials transplants, trim back one-third of the plant. If you have an annuals transplant, trim back one-third of the plant if it is a bush-type of plant and if it is a plant with a main stem, cut off half of each leaf.

Water: Make sure you continue to keep the transplant's roots moist but do not



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overwater. Make sure the soil has good drainage and the transplant isn't just standing in water.

Wait: Sometimes all it takes to cure transplant shock is a little bit of patience for the plant to get readjusted.

Symptoms of transplant shock:

If your plant displays these symptoms, it may be a victim of transplant shock: leaf scorch is where the leaves will become either bronze or yellow, wilting leaves, yellowing or rolling and curling of the leaves. Other signs also include a gray-green color to evergreen foliage, or sometimes the ends of the needles will turn a light tan color.

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