



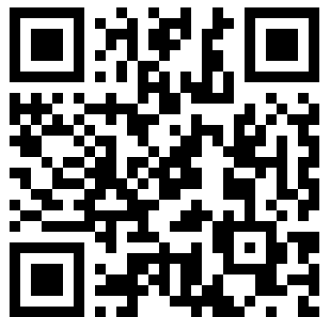
# GARDEN KIT RECIPIENT GUIDE

How to plant and care  
for your garden!

Thank you for being part of Adapt Community Supported Ecology's growing network of gardeners and stewards. This guide is designed to help you confidently plant, care for, and enjoy your garden kit. Whether you're new to gardening or already familiar with native plants, these pages will walk you through the essential steps for getting your plants established and supporting them through their first seasons.

Our goal is to make the process approachable and rewarding. With a little attention during the early stages, your garden will grow into a resilient, ecologically rich space that supports pollinators, enriches soil, and brings beauty to your home and community. We're excited to be part of this process with you—and we're here if you have questions along the way.

## PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING



This native garden kit retails at \$150 and is brought to you by the generous donations of your fellow community members. Please pay it forward if you have the means!

**[adaptecology.org/donate/](https://adaptecology.org/donate/)**



# GARDEN CARE GUIDE



## NOTES

DATE OF PLANTING:

GARDEN KIT:

PLANT SPECIES:

HISTORIC ECOSYSTEM:

SOILS PRESENT:

EXPOSURE:

EXTRA:

# GARDEN CARE GUIDE

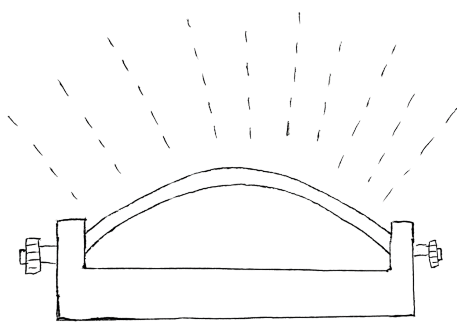


## WATER

### Watering Care Timeline

Your primary concern following installation will be watering your garden. Proper watering will allow the plants in your garden to grow deep roots, establish quickly and become drought resistant. Please follow the watering schedule on the back and adjust to your soil type. Clay soil will need significantly less water once moist. Woody shrubs and trees may need more water.


If you will be gone for an extended period after planting, please find someone to water. High temperatures and drought can kill newly installed plants quickly. Give supplemental water during drought conditions for the first two years.




\*some extreme droughts may cause need

### Watering Amount

Please use the following as a general guideline. Observe your soils to understand if it is absorbing water. Keep in mind what type of soil you have and **make sure all plants are reached with the sprinkler**. Water should reach 5 inches into your soil and the type of soil you have will affect how long that takes.

 **Light** : 30–45 minutes

 **Moderate**: 1.5 hours

 **Heavy**: 1.75–2 hours

**CLAY** LIGHT

**SILT** MODERATE

**SAND** HEAVY

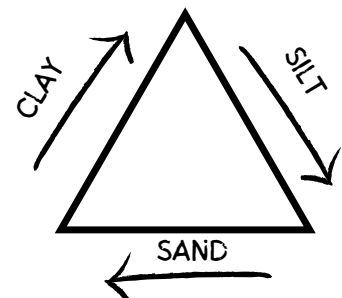
### Watering Frequency

See back for guide.

### Watering without a sprinkler

You can water by hand- 5-10 seconds per plant

## SOIL TYPES



# GARDEN CARE GUIDE



## STEWARDSHIP

### Getting to know your garden

Stewarding the land beneath you is and has always been a journey that will meander and transform with every season and reward you with endless delight. Included in this guide is useful information to get you started.

A native plant garden requires different maintenance than traditional landscaping, but they are not no-maintenance. Soon there will be no need for mulch between the plants (or room for weeds), because the plants will fill in. There be no need for a fence, as there will be abundant food for fauna to graze. There will be no need for watering because the garden will have become drought resistant. But, this happens only after establishment and proper establishment only happens with care.

As with all relationships and care, observation and responsiveness are key. We highly recommend referencing your plant list to learn what plant species are in your garden. We also have instructional YouTube videos to help you learn how to care for your garden. This may be the hardest part, but we recommend having patience when learning the changing nuances of your garden.

## PROTECT

### Fencing around garden bed

Fencing protects these small plants from hungry mouths during early establishment. Animals love to eat baby plants, which is what you are planting. Depending on the visitors you get, a simple fence of chicken wire and bamboo sticks will keep smaller grazers out. Taller temporary fencing may be necessary in areas with persistent deer.

### Fencing around woody shrubs

Fences around woody plants should remain longer to protect them from animals.

## FOLLOW UP CARE

### Weeds

What is a weed and what was planted? Weed out common weeds like quackgrass, creeping thistle, creeping charlie and other persistent weeds.

### Deadhead aggressive seeders

Refer to our Youtube instructional videos if an aggressive species is taking over an area in a way you would like to change.

### Seed

If you would like a particular species to fill in an area, then collect the seeds and spread them in those areas.








# WATERING

## Frequency:



## Amount of Water:

Please water according to the recommended level for your site—light, moderate, or heavy. These categories reflect how much moisture your plants typically need and how your soil will absorb the water. This will ensure the water reaches a depth of 4–5 inches. Each site has its own nuances, so use these guidelines as a starting point and adjust based on how the soil absorbs water.

-  **Light** : 30–45 minutes
-  **Moderate**: 1.5 hours
-  **Heavy**: 1.75–2 hours

## When to start/ stop:

At the beginning and end of growing season for Zone 6A, which is usually from mid May to late October. Outside of these months you will not need to water.

## Trees and Shrubs

Trees and shrubs require deeper watering. Pay attention to runoff and how the water is being absorbed. Hand-water with a hose for about **30 seconds (give or take) with a hose 1-2 times per week** for the first year, depending on soil type.

## Best time of day to water

Morning or evening

# GARDEN LAYOUT



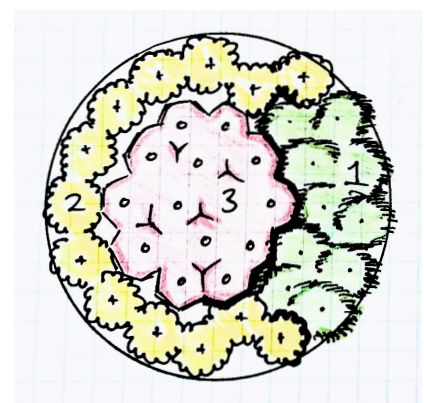
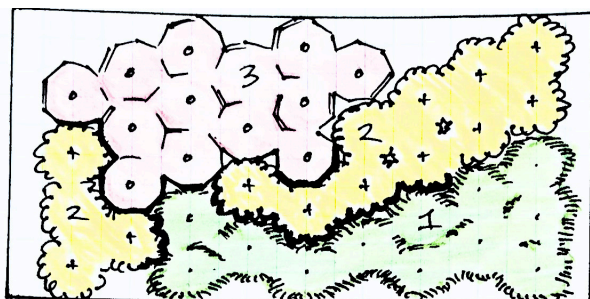
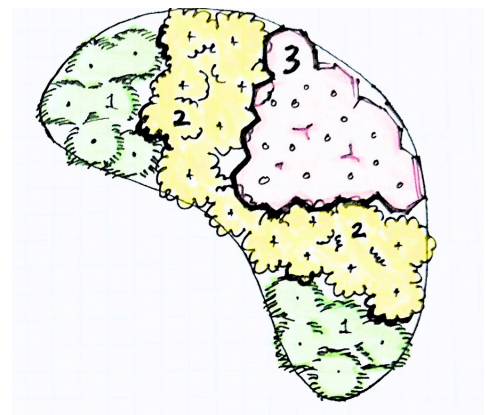
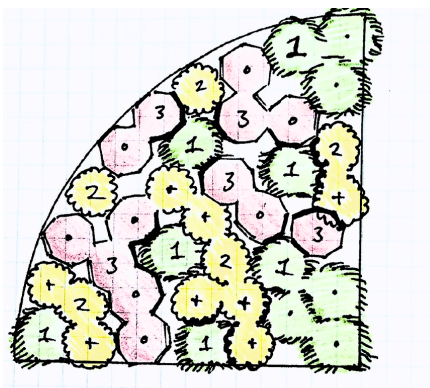
## Spacing

Space your plant plugs about 12–18 inches apart. 12 inches “on center” means from the center of one plant to the center of the next.

## Aesthetic Considerations

When laying out a garden with 3–4 plant species, think about the shapes, heights, and colors you want to highlight. Place taller species toward the back (or center, if the garden is viewed from all sides) so shorter plants remain visible—your viewing angle matters. Arrange your chosen species in repeating patterns or gentle drifts to create a cohesive look.

## Sample Designs for Garden Kits





# HOW TO PLANT YOUR KIT



1. Dig a hole that will accomodate the plug, usually about 4 inches wide and about 5 inches deep.
2. Remove the plant plug from the flat. Make sure the roots of the plug are loosened. If the roots are bound to the tray, try gently poking them out.
3. Push the plug firmly into hole ensuring there are no air gaps. Also make sure the roots are touching dirt.
4. Fill the hole with dirt until the plug is firmly in place.
5. Water the plug for 5-10 seconds with a hose or 90 minutes with a sprinkler to ensure reaching roots. See our watering guides for help.
6. Continue this process for all the plugs, spacing plants about 12-18 inches apart, depending on the site.



# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR KIT



- Cover exposed dirt around the plug with 2- 3 inches of mulch.
- Water it according to soil type, season, and weather conditions. See our guide for help.
- Protect the area with fencing if needed.

## BEYOND PLANTING

Respond to invasive species near the planting

Water until second season

Collect seed

Deadhead

Weed

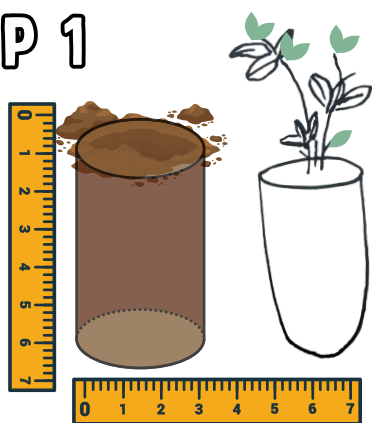
Edge

Add diversity

# HOW TO PLANT A PLUG



## STEP 1



### DIG HOLE

DIG A HOLE THAT WILL ACCOMODATE THE PLUG,

ABOUT 3-4 INCHES WIDE AND ABOUT 5-6 INCHES DEEP



## STEP 2



### PREP PLUG

REMOVE THE PLUG FROM THE FLAT. LOOSEN THE ROOTS GENTLY.

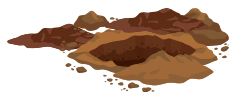


## STEP 3



### PLANT

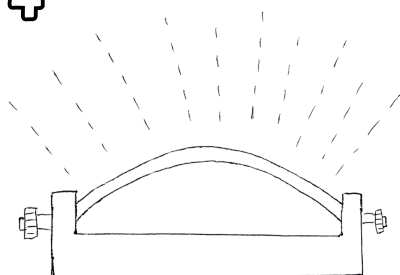
PUSH THE PLUG FIRMLY INTO HOLE



NO AIR GAPS

ROOTS ARE TOUCHING DIRT

## STEP 4



SHOULD REACH 5 INCHES

### WATER THE PLUG

HAND WATERING: 5-10 SECONDS PER PLUG

SPRINKLER WATERING: 90 MIN\* MUST REACH ALL NEW PLANTS



\*WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR DIFFERENT SOILS

# GARDEN CARE



## 1. WATER



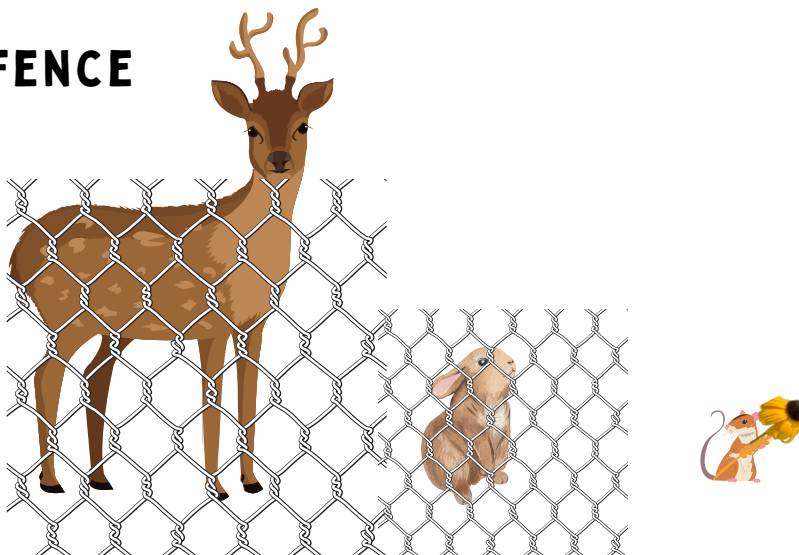
**ACCORDING TO PLANT & SOIL NEEDS, WEATHER, SEASON**

## 2. MULCH



**COVER EXPOSED DIRT AROUND THE PLUG WITH MULCH (IDEALLY 2-3 IN)**

## 3. FENCE



**PROTECT YOUNG PLANTS FROM HUNGRY CRITTERS WITH FENCING**



# SITE CONDITIONS



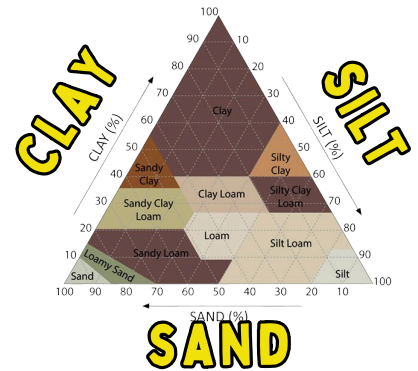
## Better Understand Your Site

### 1 Plants

The plant kit you receive should match your soil type. Dry plants like it dry; wet plants like it wet.

### 2 Soil Types

Soil type determines how quickly water drains or stays in place, so it directly affects how often and how much you need to water. Check out our Soil Guide for more information.



### 3 Topography

The slope and shape of your land affect how water moves and collects. Water will naturally run off steep areas, while low spots may hold water and stay wetter longer.

### 4 Water Table

You can find this data and more on the USDA Soil Map. We have a video to help navigate this on Youtube. This can help you better understand the drainage on your site. If your garden site is in area where water table is high, soil may stay wet for long periods and drain slowly. Conversely, a low water table usually means soil drains more quickly.

### 5 Exposure/ Shade

Exposure determines how much sunlight, wind, and temperature variation a garden receives, which directly shapes what plants will thrive. Sun and heat dry soil faster, so full-sun areas need more frequent, heavier watering. Shadier spots stay moist longer and generally require less water.