

Compacta Holly Plant Care

Step 1

Start by digging your planting hole at least two to three times as wide and only as deep as the height of the root ball of your plant. The wider the hole the better. Place native soil removed from planting hole around the perimeter of the hole, in a wheel barrow, or on a tarp.

Step 2

Depending on the type, fertility and porosity of the soil in the planting area you might need to mix in a soil amendment to the native soil removed from the planting hole. When planting Japanese hollies in dense clay or other poor draining soils it is beneficial to thoroughly mix in some good organic matter such as bagged top soil and/or a good planting mix at a 25-50% ratio with the soil removed from the planting hole. When planting in very sandy or quick-draining soil mixing in some top soil, peat moss and/or compost will help to retain moisture in the soil.

Step 3

Remove your holly plant from the nursery pot. Firmly grasp the plant at its base and try to **very gently** remove it from the container. Be careful not to damage the plant when removing it from its pot. If the root ball is stuck in the pot cut the container away. After having removed the plant from the container, use your fingers or a claw tool to carefully loosen some feeder roots around the surface of the root ball.

Step 4

If you are planting in well-drained soil, which is a must for Japanese hollies, set your plant in the planting hole so that the top edge of the root ball is at or just slightly above ground level to allow for settling. If your soil is moderately drained, meaning it drains slowly after rain, the top of the root ball should be 2 inches or more above ground level, as shown in illustration below. If necessary, add some backfill soil mixture to the bottom of the hole to achieve proper planting height.

Note: If the soil is poorly drained (constantly soggy or wet) take measures to improve drainage or select a different plant species tolerant of wet soils.

Step 5

After setting your holly in the planting hole, use one hand to hold the plant straight and your other hand to begin back-filling your soil mixture around the root ball, tamping as you go to remove air pockets. When you have filled the hole to the halfway point you can soak the soil. Then continue back-filling to the top edge of the root ball. If you are planting the root ball higher than ground level, as shown in the illustration above, taper your soil mixture gradually from the top edge of the root ball to the ground level. To avoid suffocating your plant, avoid placing any soil on top of the root ball.

Step 7

Next, deeply water the planting area, including the root ball, to a depth equal to the height of the root ball.