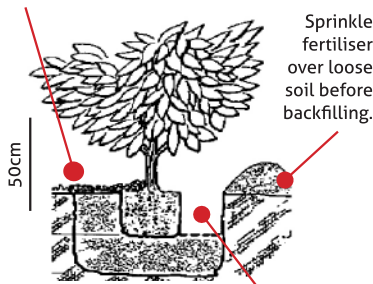


Rhododendron Planting Guide

How to plant Always plant rhododendrons and azaleas so the soil level just covers the top of the rootball. Rhododendrons and azaleas are fibrous rooting and have no ability to penetrate most subsoils, so are naturally shallow rooting. Dig a planting hole 30cm wider each side of any plant rootball and 40cm deep, regardless of soil type. If soil is heavy, throw away most of the subsoil and make up the difference with material as mentioned earlier under '**Soils**' and then mix this in with the topsoil. Mix one teacup of acid fertiliser with the soil that goes back into the hole. Firm plant just enough to gain good contact with root ball, never tramp in too hard. If planting on a slope, the pinning of a log or ponga on the bottom side will provide a flat area on which to plant and will hold moisture as well as a mulch.

Planting in well drained soil

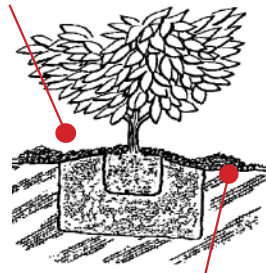
Make sure that the top of the root ball is level with the existing ground when planting in well drained soil.



Check depth before backfilling
<----- 70cm ----->

Planting in slow draining subsoil

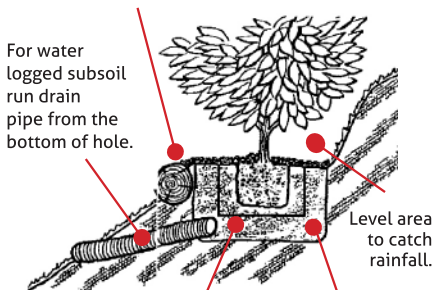
Make sure that the top of the root ball is raised above surrounding ground when planting in slow draining soil



Mulch can be mounded up at the edges of the planting hole to ensure moisture is retained during periods when watering is required, avoid piling up around trunk.

Planting on a slope

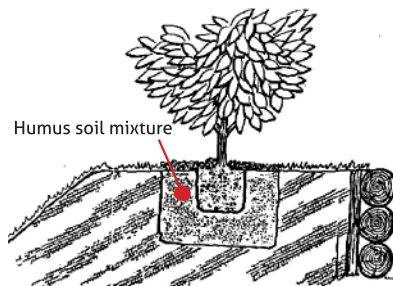
Pin log or ponga on bottom side to hold soil



Newly planted rhododendron roots only grow a short distance for the first year. N.B. Make sure water gets to this area of plant when watering.

Gently firm in soil around plant root ball. Never compress soil in too tightly.

Raised bed planting over the top of poorly drained, heavy subsoil



Remember to water in plant after planting. If plant sinks lower than recommended depth, amend this by replanting.