

BARE-ROOT PHORMIUMS

Handling Instructions

1. *Receiving:*

Unpack cartons immediately on arrival allowing air to circulate around the plants rolled in newspaper. It is not necessary to unroll the plants if they are to be potted shortly. Remove rubber bands if they are tight. Water newspaper lightly if dry. Ensure that roots are kept moist until potting.

2. *Soil:*

Pot into a free-draining soil mix. We recommend an air filled space (AFS) of 20% or better. The mix we use is 50% peat and 50% pumice (0.5—5mm), pH 6.5.

3. *Potting:*

- We recommend hand potting for bare-rooted Phormium.
- Do not cover the crown of the plant when potting. See diagram on next page.
- Firm media in the pot, but do not compress the potting media.
- Water-in immediately after potting with a fungicide preventative drench.
- Plants may require support to stay upright. **Do not pot the plant too deeply** to keep upright. Covering the crown can cause crown rot.

4. *Fertilizer:*

Use a very low rate in the early stages as new Phormium roots are extremely sensitive. Once established, moderate fertilizer levels are suitable.

5. *Growing Conditions:*

- Hold newly potted plants out of direct sunlight and protected from severe wind exposure.
- Shade houses, or shaded glasshouses, which have significant air movement are ideal. 30%-40% shade is perfect in the beginning stage of growth.
- Do not put Phormium in closed glasshouses with no air movement and high humidity.

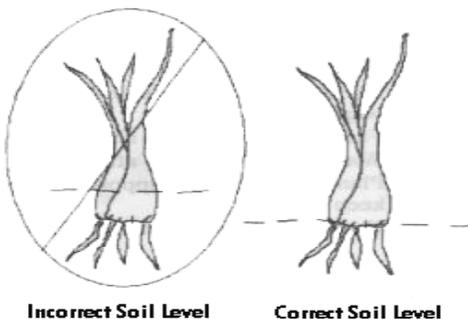
These conditions are not conducive to successful Phormium growing and can cause root and/or crown rot.

6. *Watering:*

This needs to be carefully controlled in the early stages (first two months after arrival). Potting media should be moist but not water logged. We have found that light misting every couple of hours for the first 2-3 weeks and also not that if misting is not an available option at your location, then be sure to never let the soil & roots completely dry out during this noted beginning period. Also, during the misting process, pending local climate conditions usually one deep watering per week is necessary.

In very wet and water logged conditions, roots will rapidly rot and plants will die. Potting media needs to be moist, but if your compost holds water like a sponge or there is surface moss or liverwort you will inevitably kill your Phormium (check number 2 above on potting mix). A regular heavy watering to flush through the compost is necessary to avoid salt buildup.

Careful crop management and attention to detail can achieve over 95% success rates. Once they are established, they can handle a good many climatic conditions. Note conditions that are harsh on Phormiums can cause a high mortality rate even for mature established plants. For example, temperatures over 90 degrees Fahrenheit and being exposed to direct sun at the same time can cause the plant to burn and die back. During these conditions, it is best to either keep the plants partially shaded or keep the soil moist by watering. Other extreme conditions that negatively impact Phormiums are heavy rains or high humidity (80% and up). Note the ideal propagation temperatures are 45-70 degrees Fahrenheit.



Points to Remember

- ⇒ Phormium need to grow new roots to re-establish.
- ⇒ Use free-draining potting mix.
- ⇒ Do not pot too deeply.
- ⇒ Keep media moist-misting foliage is helpful.