



“Potting a New Plant”

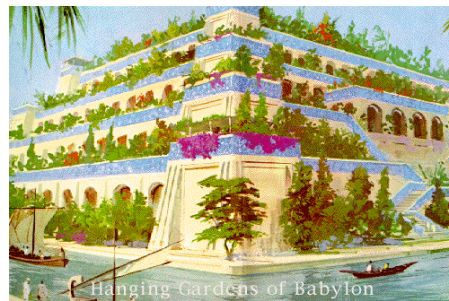
Activity Review

Presented by:
The Good to Great Team
EDU 524
November 7, 2005

Targeted Goal

Students will demonstrate proficiency at

- planting new items,
 - transplanting existing plants, and,
 - potting to give away to others.
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Potting Work Area



Potting Materials

- flat, clear work surface
- protective covering for work surface, if needed
- suitable pot
- soil with proper fertilizer
- water
- plant



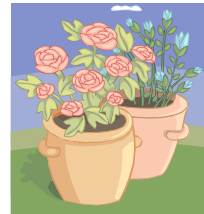
Containers

- Need to include drainage hole(s).
- Desired plant needs to match.
 - Tall plants need tall containers.
 - Short plants need short containers.
- Need to be coordinated with the plants to compliment surrounding décor or architecture.



Container Options

- Pots – plastic, glazed, or terra cotta
- Wastebaskets
- Aquariums
- Waterproof bushel baskets
- Washtubs
- Hollowed-out logs
- Crates with black plastic and holes for drainage
- Bowls
- Coffee cans
- Old buckets
- Wheelbarrows
- Crocks
- Urns
- Tubs
- Barrels
- Cans
- Pans
- Chimney flues
- Baskets
- Cement blocks
- Old pair of work boots
- Homemade wooden box



Soil Selection

- The choice of growing media is extremely important.
- Soil must
 - have capability of holding water
 - be porous and drain easily
- Ordinary garden soil is a poor choice
 - frequent watering compacts it, restricting root development
 - increases risk of insect infestations and soil-borne diseases and fungi



Soil Selection

- Ideal growing media is commercially prepared “soil-less” medium
 - Composed of
 - sphagnum or peat moss
 - sand
 - vermiculite and/or perlite
 - lime
 - minerals and nutrients
 - Sterilized
 - Light-weight
 - Heavier texture
 - Relatively expensive



Fertilizer

- Required to counteract depletion of nutrients in soil from frequent watering
- Test soil before using
- Use proper mixture



Water

- Distilled is best
- Should be room temperature
- Maintenance watering cautions
 - Plants require extra in dry conditions or when exposed to wind
 - Overwatering is most common reason container plants die
 - Best time to water plants is in morning



Choosing a Plant

- Lighting
 - shade, partial shade, natural or artificial light
 - Container plants require at least five hours' direct light each day
- Weather, pollution, humidity
 - Plants must be matched to elements where they will be growing
- Low-growing is best
 - Less wind damage
 - Take up less space



Potting Procedures



Step 1 – Prepare Work Area

Place a protective covering over the work surface, if necessary, to prevent it from getting dirty.



Step 2 – Prepare Pot

- If using a terra cotta flower pot:
 - pour a small amount of water in the pot
 - rub the water around inside of pot to moisten.
- This ensures better reaction between the pot and soil.
- If using a new, plastic pot, wash with water and mild soap to remove chemicals.



Step 3 – Provide Drainage

- Place 5-10 small rocks on the bottom of your container for drainage.
- Alternatively, fill container half full of non-biodegradable styrofoam packing “peanuts.”



Step 4 – Add Soil Mixture

- Add soil mixture to about 1/2” from the top of your pot.
- Dig a hole in the soil with your finger or a utensil about 50% larger than the existing plant container.



Step 5 – Add Water

- Fill 1/3 of the hole with water.



Step 6 – Remove Plant from Temporary Container

- Carefully remove the plant from the plastic container.
- The dark area is called the “root ball.”



Step 7 – Transfer the Plant

- Quickly move the plant to the hole you have created in the terra cotta pot.
- Gently fluff the root ball to loosen the roots and soil.



Step 8 – Positioning Plant in New Pot

- Add additional soil mixture to completely cover the root ball, supporting the plant itself.
- Do not press the soil down tightly – leave it loose!



Step 9 – Adding More Water

- Add additional water until it drains from the holes in the bottom of the pot.



Step 10 – Clean Up!

- Use paper towels and wipes to clean dirt from the outside of your plant pot.
- Clear your work area, properly disposing of all waste, closing all containers, and placing dangerous items out of reach of children.



What did you learn today?



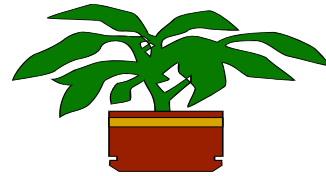
Knowledge & Skills Assessment

- Please respond to the following 15 questions and instructions on a sheet of paper and turn it in to the facilitators when you have finished.
- Make sure your name is on the paper!



Question 1

What are the six components
of a potting work area?



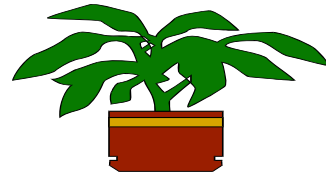
Question 2

Besides terra cotta or plastic
pots, what are five possible
choices/options for containers?



Question 3

What is the reason for drainage holes in a plant container?



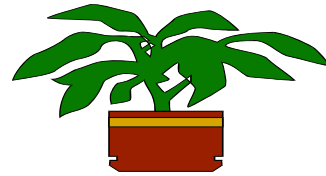
Question 4

What are five criteria for good potting soil?



Question 5

What is the purpose of fertilizer in the soil mixture of a potted plant?



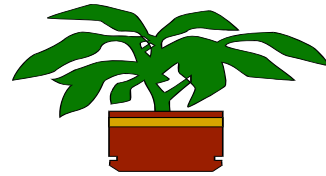
Question 6

What are the best (a) type and (b) temperature of water used in potting plants?



Question 7

What are three important environmental considerations for a potted plant?



Question 8

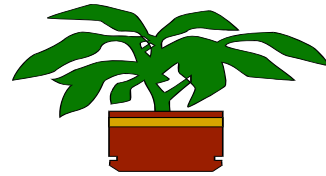
List one necessary step to prepare each of the following type pots:

- (a) terra cotta
- (b) new, plastic.



Question 9

Name two options for
enhancing drainage in a pot.



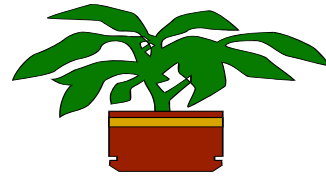
Question 10

What is the proper level of soil
mixture in a pot before the
plant is added?



Question 11

Once a hole is made in the pot's soil mixture, what volume of water should be added before the plant?



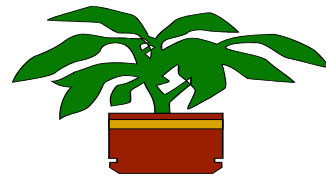
Question 12

What is a plant's root ball?



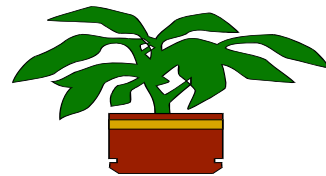
Question 13

How should the root ball be prepared for potting?



Question 14

What two considerations are necessary when placing additional soil in the pot after the plant is inserted?



Question 15

How much water should be
added to the pot after the plant
is inserted?

