**GENERAL PLANTING GUIDE**

1. Choose plants suitable for your location.
2. Dig the hole 2-3 times the width of the container/root ball.
3. Set the plant on undisturbed soil (a) so top is 1"-2" higher than the surrounding grade (b).
4. If the plant is root bound, cut vertical slices through the circling roots.
5. Do not add compost, manure or other amendments unless the soil is very poor, then up to 25% may be added.
6. Backfill with half of the native soil. To eliminate air pockets, tamp lightly (c) OR flood with water then let drain (d).
7. Complete filling hole to top of root ball. Tamp lightly. Build a shallow water ring around the base of the plant to retain water (e).
8. Mulch with 2"-3" shredded bark mulch (f). Leave 2"-6" bare around stem (g).
9. Water regularly (about once a week) and deeply (run hose at a slow trickle). Keeping soil moist but not soggy is the greatest key to success.
10. Do not fertilize the first year.

**MORE ABOUT PLANTING**

Website links available at lakes.me/protect
The Buffer Handbook Plant List; pp 5-7 (see next page)
Step-by-Step Illustrations: www.arborday.org/trees/planting
Information for all types of planting, from root balls to container grown: www.westonnurseries.com

**LEARN MORE**

Links to all references can be found at lakes.me/protect

3. UMaine Cooperative Extension’s webpage Plants for the Maine Landscape has links to bulletins for many of the plants listed here as well as Gardening to Conserve Maine’s Native Landscape: Plants to Use and Plants to Avoid.
5. Visit Maine Audubon’s Native Plant Finder to search for native plants by habitat type.

**A LAKESMART BUFFER:**

- Slows and absorbs rain and stormwater so that it doesn’t carry nutrients and pollution into the lake.
- Has five layers of vegetation: canopy, midstory, shrubs, ground cover, and duff/mulch.
- Is at least 10’ deep, deeper on steeper slopes.
- Has minimum narrow access points to the water showing no signs of erosion.
- Has curving paths that are permeable (i.e., not paved)

For more information, and to make an appointment for a free LakeSmart evaluation of your shoreline property, contact your lake association. FMI, email lakesmart@lakes.me or visit www.lakesmart.org.

Maine Lakes thanks Doug Kavanaugh of the Greater Pushaw Lake Association for writing, researching and designing this publication.

**PROTECT YOUR POND**

**WITH NATIVE BUFFER PLANTS**

Lake water quality is best protected with five layers of buffer vegetation at least 10’ deep along the shoreline.

The best native buffer plants:
- Are hardy and beautiful in many seasons
- Are widely available at local nurseries
- Tolerate a range of soils and sun conditions
- Grow rapidly, with spreading root systems
- May attract pollinators and wildlife