ANNUAL INSTALLATION

**H**igh quality color displays start with the proper preparation of annual beds and proper annual installation techniques. In order for annuals to perform better, the following guidelines must be met:

* The soil must be loose and organic with adequate drainage.
* The soil amendments must be added to the bed and tilled in to a depth of 10” - 12”.
* See the detailed bed preparation guidelines in the “Bed Prep Manual.”

Annual installation starts with fertilizing the beds before setting out the plants.

**First:** The flats of annuals should be hand watered thoroughly before planting.

**Second:** A pre-measured amount of *Plant Health Care* is added to the bed and lightly

raked in after it has been applied.

**Third:** A 14-26-6 fertilizer is put out at a rate of 4 lb. per 1,000 sq. ft. This is equal to

two 16 oz. cups full of fertilizer sprinkled lightly across a 1,000 sq. ft. bed.

**Fourth:** The plants should then be set out in straight, staggered rows and spaced

correctly. The first row should be set approximately 12” from the bottom of the bed. Pay close attention to the pre-determined planting design and follow it

as closely as possible. (It is important to set out the bed before planting because

it is easier to make adjustments before the plants are in the ground.)

Once the entire bed is set out, planting may begin.

**First:** Remove the annual from the pot and loosen the root ball by squeezing it lightly.

**Second:** Install the plant with the top of the root ball level with the soil. (The only

exception to this rule is when planting *kale* or *cabbage,* these varieties should be

planted up to the top two or three whorls of leaves.)

**Third:** Avoid stepping into the bed while planting. If it is unavoidable, do not step on

any plants and rake out any footprints. This important in order to insure that the

mulch will sit evenly on the bed.

**Fourth:** Mulch is applied after planting in the form of small bark nuggets or shredded

hardwood mulch. The mulch acts as a weed barrier, helps retain soil moisture

and gives the bed a decorative look. It is applied evenly over the bed and then

dusted off of any plant material. Utilize the leftover mulch bags for clean-up.

**Fifth:** The beds should be watered by hand or the irrigation, if applicable, must be set

to run before leaving the property. The soil should be moist at finger’s depth and

it should be checked in several locations. Water once every 3 days during the

first 2 weeks following installation.