

Caring for your Herbs

Hardy perennial herbs can be planted at any time of the year, except when soil is frozen or waterlogged. When you receive your herbs, remove from packaging immediately. Water thoroughly and let the water drain. It is essential that new herbs do not run short of moisture around their roots until they are well established. So, if the ground is parched when you plant, fill the hole with water before positioning the rootball, then plant as normal, watering the plant thoroughly again afterwards.



www.jekkasherbfarm.com

Six Steps to Happy Herbs:

- 1) Dig a hole that is at least twice the width and depth of the herb's container. Mix the soil you've removed with well rotted organic matter and leave to one side.
- 2) The herb needs to be planted at the same depth as it was in the pot. For larger herbs, such as specimen herbs, shrubs and trees, check the hole is the right depth by laying a cane or piece of straight timber across the hole.
- 3) The easiest way to remove a large herb from its pot is to gently lay it on its side and, with one hand supporting the herb, ease the rootball out of its pot.
- 4) Carefully tease out any roots that were circling around the bottom or sides of the pot so that they grow away from the rootball and into the surrounding soil. Position the plant in the centre of the hole and then fill in the gaps around the sides with soil mixture.
- 5) Once the hole has been filled, gently firm the soil – you don't want to squash it in, just get rid of any air pockets and make sure the herb is secure. Water it again using at least one full watering can.
- 6) Then cover the surface of the soil with a generous layer of mulch, such as chipped bark or well rotted organic matter to help prevent weeds and reduce the amount of water loss from the soil.

Water after planting

Make sure all new herbs are kept well watered until established. This can be just a few weeks for perennials in spring, but shrubs may need watering regularly throughout the first spring and summer, and trees the following summer too.

Good drainage is essential

Ensure that your herbs are planted in free draining soil, or the roots may become waterlogged and cold.

Climate

Check whether your herb is hardy or not. For further information, see our Guide to Herb Hardiness, which is available to view on our website at www.jekkasherbfarm.com/Herbcare.asp

Our promise

We promise only to send you herbs which have been slow-grown organically and seasonally. We also give our word to package and protect them to prevent damage during transit.

Please note: herbs look different depending upon what time of year it is. If you choose a nice leafy looking herb in the winter, remember it may arrive looking very different. Many herbs are dormant during winter, and many are cut back in autumn as essential routine maintenance. It doesn't mean there's anything wrong with the plant – just that it's out of season, and will spurt into growth in the new season.

Further hints for Happy Herbs

Our website runs regular features on herb care and maintenance, including our 'Farm Diary' and 'Herb of the Month' which give seasonal tips and detailed information. You can sign up to our newsletter to receive monthly herb hints, news, recipes etc. The website also gives a complete run-down of our terms and conditions. Visit www.jekkasherbfarm.com or if you need to 'phone us about your order, call **01454 418878**.

Happy Planting!

