

# *How to Care for a Wee Willie Boxwood*

## **Buxus**

### **SELECT SITE:**

Light Requirements: Partial Sun (4-6 hrs/day) is preferred; Full Sun (more than 6 hrs/day ) is okay. This shrub will grow larger; space 18 in. away from other plants and/or structures.

Prefers to grow in average, moisture rich, well drained soil; good drainage is required; does not like hard clay soils that retain moisture and/or boggy consistently wet soils.

Usage: As a short hedge along a walkway, near the foundation, in the border garden, in the center of a mixed container planting, fit in practically anywhere.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 4,5,6,7,8,9

### **PLANT PREP:**

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

### **HOLE PREP:**

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10” tall by 24” wide.

### **PLANTING:**

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4” away from its trunk.

### **FUTURE MAINTENANCE:**

A yearly application of an all-purpose fertilizer in early spring will help Boxwoods achieve their full growth potential. When planting, do not put fertilizer directly into the hole but rather, if desired, place fertilizer on top of the ground under the mulch and away from the stem of the plant. Do not fertilize in late summer or early fall.

Boxwoods require no special pruning. If trimming is desired, plants can be clipped back at any time of year, except for the six weeks prior to the first expected autumn frost.

