

How to Care for a Potentilla or Cinquefoil Shrub

Potentilla fruticosa ‘Abbottswood, ‘Goldfinger

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun (more than 6 hrs/day)

This deciduous shrub will grow larger, space 36 in. away from other plants or structures.

Thrives in average, well drained soil; quite tolerant of a wide range of soils, except boggy ones.

Garden Uses: Perfect shrub for hot & dry garden sites; informal hedge; foundation plant; in groups for late summer color; urban gardens

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 3,4,5,6,7

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 stems.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water regularly during first growing season to establish a deep, extensive root system. Prune out old/dead/damaged limbs in early spring before new growth begins or cut almost to ground to revitalize entire plant. If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6” away from its stems.