

WAKE ME UP

As your orders arrive for spring planting, you may notice some variability between the flats you receive. Don't panic!

North Creek Nurseries has shared with us their advice on how to handle plant material delivered in early spring and how to best care for your plants until you are ready to install them in the ground.

THE DIFFERENT GROWTH STAGES



DORMANT PLUG MATERIAL has little to no top green growth. These liners have been grown in an unheated, protected hoop house through the winter months and will be coming out of winter dormancy in step with the rest of the natural world. While dormant material has no lush top growth, they have strong roots that are ready to grow as the soil warms.

Flats of dormant plant material do not require being warm and inside. For dormant plant material, place them in a protected location OUTSIDE and keep an eye on soil moisture - do not allow plant plugs to dry out. A "protected" location is one where plants are not sitting in water, are out of the way of harsh winds, and away from rain gutter drains or overhangs where plants can be damaged by a hard spring storm.

Dormant plant material can be installed into a project planting as soon as the soil is workable at your project site.

For plants to break dormancy, they need light and warmth. Outside, this will come naturally with spring's arrival. Indoors, it can be simulated by growing plants in a warm area, preferably with bottom heat to warm the soil, and lots of light.

EMERGING PLUG MATERIAL has some top green growth. These liners have been grown in a minimally heated (40F) greenhouse through the winter months. They are waking up from winter dormancy and are beginning to push active growth. While they have minimal top growth, their roots are strong and are starting to wake up.

For emerging plant material, we recommend they stay in an area where they can receive light, have temperatures above 40F, and are protected from harsh winds or winter cold. Depending on your location, you may already have outside temperatures above 40F. In those cases, the plants can be left outside in a protected location. For areas that are still experiencing winter cold, a hoop house outside, a garage with windows, or a 3-season patio are all really good places to store your plant trays until the planting project installation date. Be sure to keep an eye on soil moisture of your plant trays - do not allow the plant plugs to dry out.

Emerging plant material can be planted outside when the danger of hard frost has past.



GREEN PLUG MATERIAL has come straight from our heated greenhouses. These liners are actively growing right now. The top green leafy material is lush and tender and the roots are strong.

We do not recommend green plant material to be planted until outside night temperatures are above 50F. Green plant material should be kept in a well-lit area, away from cold and protected in something like a 3-season porch, a heated greenhouse, or inside a building by a window. Plants should not be allowed to dry out - keep an eye on soil moisture. Since the plants are actively growing, they will require more soil moisture monitoring than emerging or dormant plant material.

Green plant material can be installed outside in the ground when night temperatures are above 50F.

For the sake of simplicity - all 3 types of liners (dormant, emerging, and green) would be fine kept inside, near a light source, until the planting project installation date.