

## Can I plant in the SUMMER?



You've probably heard from someone before that you should only plant in the spring or fall. This common misconception stems from the fact that *transplanting* works better in cold weather. *Transplanting* involves digging up a plant and moving it - usually by cutting roots and leaving some of the plant behind. However, when you get a potted plant and put it in the ground or a different pot, this is *replanting* it which does not involve cutting roots or really disturbing the plant at all. The entire root system of the plant is in the pot, so there is no *transplanting* involved. Another reason people used to say that you can only plant during the mild seasons is that this is when we get rain. Before modern irrigation, you probably would want to wait until spring or fall to plant so that the rain can water for you. This way the plant has a chance to get established before the heat of summer or cold of winter. But now with the help of irrigation, you can easily water your plants and get them going whether it's raining or not. This is good news for gardening lovers...you can plant in spring, fall, winter, and even the middle of summer (if you're willing)!



Many people think that spring is the only time to plant, but this is not true. The reason for spring planting is the weather: it is not too hot to be outside planting, and with some rain you don't have to worry about watering diligently. In summer, putting plants in the ground is just fine but you need to be sure to water frequently during and after transplanting. Fall is a great time to plant because it gives plants a chance to get established before spring. Winter is also good because most plants go dormant and won't be harmed when moved (especially if roots need to be cut). So if you can't plant this spring, don't worry! There is still plenty of time.