

New Research: PLANT HIGH

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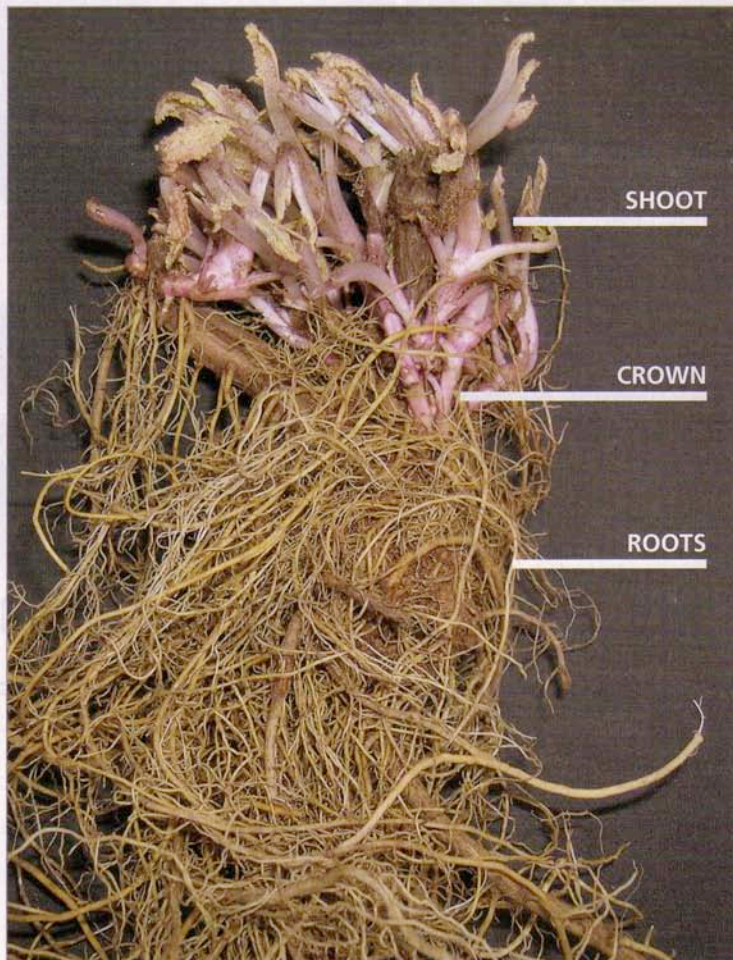
You'll want to make sure your crew that pots up bareroot perennials gets this latest info: Research from Dr. Bill Miller, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, shows that planting depth is a major factor in how well bareroot perennials perform.

The research has found that planting bareroot crowns at or slightly above the soil surface results in much better growth and performance as compared to plants whose crowns are planted below the soil surface. Deep-planted roots tend to grow much more slowly and with less vigor.

Bill recommends that you carefully review planting practices with crews. You should also take into account the possible effects that container transportation and handling procedures after planting might have on final crown depth.



Can an inch or two make a difference? Shown left to right: *Salvia nemorosa* Amethyst planted "high" without waterlogging; planted high with waterlogging; planted deep without waterlogging; and planted deep with waterlogging. Waterlogging, says Cornell researcher Bill Miller, had no effect in either case. "But," he says, "you can see a very large and positive effect of 'planting high.'" With the deep-planted salvia, the crowns were about 1.5 in. below the soil surface.



Phlox paniculata Laura, in bareroot form, should be planted with the crown at or slightly above the soil surface.

BILL'S RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL DUTCH WHOLESALERS' ASSOCIATION FOR FLOWERBULBS AND NURSERY STOCK (KBGBB) IN HILLEGOM, HOLLAND. A FULL REPORT OF THE RESULTS IS AVAILABLE AT THE FLOWERBULB RESEARCH PROGRAM WEB SITE AT WWW.FLOWERBULBS.CORNELL.EDU, UNDER "RECENT PUBLICATIONS." ADDITIONALLY, THERE'S A PRINTABLE, PICTORIAL GUIDE TO SEVERAL BARE ROOT CROWNS AND EXAMPLES OF PROPER PLANTING DEPTH. FOR MORE, CONTACT BILL MILLER AT WBM8@CORNELL.EDU.