



Bareroot Planting

Tips and tricks to help your plant to be a happy and healthy addition to your landscape!

Before Planting

- **It's critical to keep bareroot plant roots moist and protected from sun, wind, and frost!** If you aren't planting immediately, heel the plants in a mulch or compost pile or store them in a plastic bag packed with wet straw, mulch or some other organic material.
- If roots are especially dry, you may soak them for several hours prior to planting.

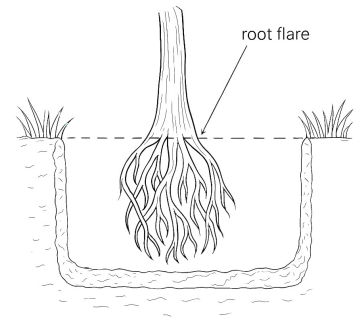
Planting

Successful planting starts with proper preparation.

- Make sure the hole is large enough to accommodate roots without having to prune or force them to fit.
- The root flare, the area where the trunk flares out and connects with the root system, should be at or slightly above ground level. If your tree has a graft near the base, do not bury it!
- Roughen the sides of the hole with a shovel. Remove rocks and debris from the hole.
- Plants must be able to grow in their surrounding soil, but you can amend sandy soils with organic material or light topsoil to help with moisture retention. If you have very heavy, slow draining soil you may want to consider another planting location.

Ready to plant?

- Form a mound of soil on the bottom of the hole and spread the roots over the mound.
- Prune diseased or damaged roots with a sharp, clean tool.
- Backfill the soil into the hole a few inches at a time, firming the soil after each addition. While backfilling, be sure the plant remains vertical and be careful to not damage roots.
- Gently raise and lower the plant while adding soil to eliminate air pockets.
- Use water to settle the soil around the roots while backfilling.



After Planting

Moisture, mulch, and more

- The soil around the plant should be kept very moist for the first 2-3 weeks after planting.
- Gradually taper off watering until about 5 weeks, when no additional watering should be needed unless we are in a dry spell.
- Mulching helps maintain a uniform supply of moisture while keeping weed growth down. Avoid creating a "mulch volcano" around trees where mulch is mounded up high around the root flare.
- Supplemental fertilizer is not necessary in the first year of establishment but may be applied later for ongoing maintenance.

Two additional steps for success with newly planted trees:

- Staking is often not necessary but if you feel the tree is unstable, you may want to provide some additional support with two opposing stakes placed firmly outside of the root mass and connected to the tree with canvas straps.
- **Protect your tree from animal damage!** Voles and rabbits love to gnaw the bark of young trees during late fall and winter. Wrap the trunk with a plastic tree protector or hardware cloth. Remember to remove these protectors as the tree ages to prevent girdling. If deer are prevalent in your area, surround the tree with a tall wire fence.