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Bare-Root Planting Guide

(For Trees, Shrubs and Berries)

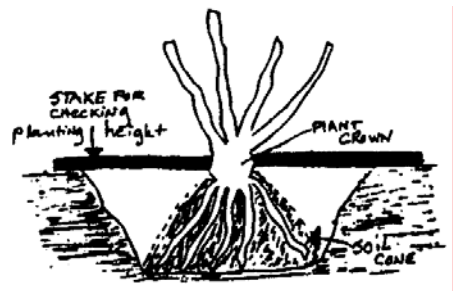
In winter/early spring, we offer many varieties of deciduous trees and shrubs in *bare-root* form. Not only does purchasing bare-root plants save you money, but you will find that bare-root trees and shrubs actually establish themselves more quickly in your garden.

Two Important Rules for Bare-Root Success

- When you fill in around the roots, use roughly 2/3 soil from your garden and 1/3 Plant Farm Organic Compost (mixed together), so when the plants break dormancy they are immediately introduced to the soil they will be growing in for the rest of their life. This will eliminate problems down the road.
- Keep the plant's roots moist while you prepare the planting site. Set the roots in a bucket of water overnight to allow them to fully re-hydrate. **Remember:** If the roots are allowed to dry out and wither before going into the ground, the plant will die. To prevent rot and disease, use sharp pruners to cut off any broken roots before planting.

General Bare-Root Planting Guidelines

1. **Dig a hole.** Make it deep enough and wide enough so the roots will fit without bending. (DON'T cut the roots to fit the hole! Dig the hole to fit the roots!) Plan on the hole being at least twice as wide as the root system, with the top of the hole wider than the bottom (think of a wide "V"). Add Plant Farm Transplant Fertilizer to the planting hole, following the application recommendations on the package (All plants need nutrition to develop their roots and leaves.).
2. **Build a firm cone of soil mixture** in the center of the planting hole (this will help support the plant's crown). Set the plant's roots in the hole, arranging them over and around the cone of soil. The plant's crown should be at the same depth as it was in the growing field or at least 1" above ground. You can check the planting height by laying a long stake or shovel handle across the planting hole opening and eyeballing the height of the plant's crown (see drawing at right). Adjust the height of the soil cone accordingly.
3. **Fill in around the roots** with your soil mixture. Be careful not to pack the soil tightly around the roots, as watering will help the soil settle in.



4. **Water the planting site.** If the plant settles too deeply, gently pump it up and down a bit, while the soil is still wet, to raise it to the proper height.
5. **Water sparingly.** In early spring, while the plant is still dormant, you will need to water seldom, if at all. When new growth begins to emerge in late spring, water the root zone only if the soil dries out. Do not allow the soil to become too wet, as this will kill the young, developing roots. Roots need water, but they also need oxygen, and too much water will squeeze the oxygen from the soil, causing the young roots to drown.
6. **Do not use fertilizer after planting, until the plant leafs out.** And be patient. A bare-root plant may take many weeks, and quite a few warm days, to break their dormancy and begin to put out new foliage.

Remember: If you have any questions at all about how to plant and care for your bare-root plants, don't hesitate to call us!

Shopping List:

- Plant Farm Organic Compost
- Plant Farm Transplant Fertilizer
- Pruning Shears