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"Newly Potted" Bare Root Plant Care

After our **Bare Root Tree and Shrub Sale** in the winter and early spring, we potted up unsold trees and shrubs as they emerged from dormancy so they could start sending out new roots. That means that these plants now have young, newly developing roots, so you need to take **special care** to prevent damage to the tender root system.

KEEP THESE TREES AND SHRUBS IN THEIR POTS UNTIL THEY HAVE LOST ALL OF THEIR LEAVES IN THE FALL.

In the meantime, dig a hole where you want to plant your tree or shrub. Place the tree or shrub, pot and all, in the hole to keep it from tipping over in the wind and protect the roots from hot sun. When fall arrives, simply remove the tree or shrub from its pot and plant it in its pre-dug hole. Here are step-by-step details:

1. Leave the tree or shrub in its pot until fall.
2. Dig the planting hole at least one-half again as wide as the pot (for example, if the pot is 2' wide, dig the hole 3' wide) and no deeper than the soil in the pot.
3. Add our Organic Compost in an amount equal to the soil already in the pot, and mix well with your native soil.
4. Place the tree or shrub, pot and all, in the hole, keeping the top of the pot level with the ground. Backfill around the pot with the amended native soil.
5. Check the soil moisture in the pot during drier periods. Soak roots thoroughly when the top 2" of soil is dry.
6. In the fall, after the leaves have fallen off the tree or shrub, remove it and its pot from the planting hole.
7. Add The Plant Farm's Transplant Food to the bottom of the planting hole and mix it in. Follow the directions on the label to determine the proper amount.
8. Gently remove the tree or shrub from its container and position it so that the top of the root ball is level with the ground. If grafted, make sure graft is 1" above soil line.
9. Fill around the root ball. Be careful not to pack the soil too tightly. When the hole is half filled, get out the garden hose and soak the area deeply. Then finish filling the hole.

10. Layer 2-3" of our Organic Compost around the planting area. **Keep compost about 2" away from touching the plant's trunk or canes.**
11. Continue to water the tree or shrub through the fall, until the rains come.

Shopping List:

Organic Compost

Transplant Food