

Bare-Root Planting Guide

For Shrubs & Ornamental Grasses

In Autumn to early spring, we offer many varieties of shrubs and grasses 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.

We also supply division plants from our stock plants in the spring time, divisions are small plants that have been removed from the parent plant, planting them is the same as for bare root plants.

Two Important Rules for Bare-Root Success

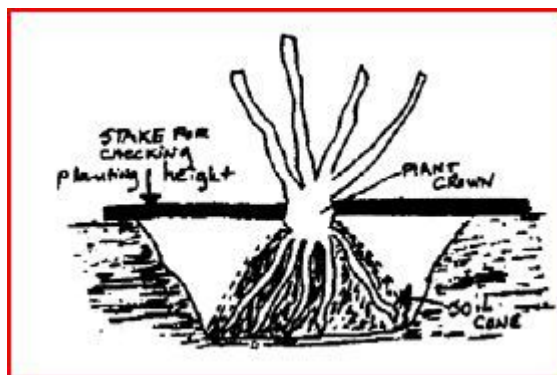
1, When you fill in around the roots, use roughly 2/3 soil from your garden and 1/3 Plant Farm Organic Compost (mixed together), so when the plants break dormancy they are immediately introduced to the soil they will be growing in for the rest of their life. This will eliminate problems down the road.

2, 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 secateurs 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 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.



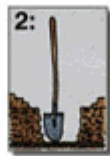
3. Fill in around the roots with your soil mixture. Be careful not to pack the soil tightly around the roots, as watering will help the soil settle in.
4. Water the planting site. If the plant settles too deeply, gently pump it up and down a bit, while the soil is still wet, to raise it to the proper 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 contact us!

Planting Bare Root Trees



1: Unpack tree and soak in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots, and do not allow roots to dry out.



2: Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3: Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments.



4: Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly packed with your heel. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.



5: After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk).



6: Water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year.

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