



BAREROOT PLANTING GUIDE

It is best to plant bareroot plants as soon as possible. Keep the plant cool and the roots moist until planting. If you are unable to plant within a day or two, heel the plants into the ground by laying them in a shallow trench dug in a shady spot in the garden. Cover the roots with moist soil. If this is not possible, keep the plants in the bag they came in and plant as soon as you can.

PREPARATION

- Before planting, soak the roots overnight in a bucket of water.
- Buy mulch (if necessary) 1 bag should be more than enough.
- It may be helpful to have a sheet of plastic handy to temporarily pile the soil from the planting hole.
- Grab your shovel!

HOW BIG SHOULD I DIG?

The rule of thumb is to dig the width at least two times the diameter of the root mass, but no deeper. Loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole, and roughen up the sides of the hole as much as possible, to allow roots to penetrate the surrounding soil.

PLANTING DEPTH

Important! Almost all plants (except tomatoes) should be planted with the 'collar' (junction where the roots begin on the stem) level with, or a bit higher than the surrounding grade, depending on the type of soil. For well-drained soils, the top of the root ball should be slightly higher than the surrounding soil. For poorly drained soils, the plant should be planted several inches higher than usual.

PLANTING

Remove the plant from the bucket of water and cleanly cut off any broken or dead roots. Next, build a mound in the center of the planting hole and spread the roots over it, adjusting the mound's height so that the root collar stands slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Lay your shovel handle across the hole to help gauge the depth.

Next, backfill the hole a little at a time, working the soil in among the roots as you go. Slightly shake the plant occasionally to settle the soil, and adjust the positioning of the tree as necessary. When you are almost done backfilling, water the plant to settle the soil around the roots and eliminate any air pockets. Check the height of the plant again and make adjustments if necessary. Finish backfilling and water again. Next, build up a slight mound of soil around the outer edge of the planting hole to help contain water.

MULCH

Cover the planting area with about three inches of mulch. Keep the mulch away from the trunk to prevent it from rotting.