



Bare Root Planting Guidelines

Bare Root—More Bang for Your Buck

Step 1

- Unpack your plants as soon as they arrive.
- Cut open your bare root bundle. Remove twine and packing material from roots of plant(s).
- Count your plants to be sure they are all there (each plant variety should be tagged).

Step 2

- Prune off any broken branches or roots that may have been damaged in shipping.
- Place the roots in a tub or bucket of water until planting. (up to 1 day).

Note: If unable to plant within 1 day, keep the roots wet, wrapped, and covered with the wrapping and shipping material they arrived in. Store in a cool, shaded area like your garage. Bare root plants store fine in the shade if kept moist.

Step 3

- Dig a hole as deep as needed to accommodate the roots and about a foot wider than needed.
- Fill in the hole. Cover the top—most root with about an inch of dirt. This puts the roots at the correct depth.
- Water them well so all the soil gets saturated at planting time.

Step 4

- Bare root plants benefit tremendously from lightly trimming any branches by about 1/3. Pruning speeds up breaking dormancy.
- Mulch to help retain moisture and deter weeds. Mulch should be 2 to 3 inches deep and 18 to 24 inches wide. Avoid having mulch touch the trunk.

Step 5

- Watering: Touch the soil close to the trunk with your finger just under the surface. This is the best way to see if your plant needs water. If the soil is moist, skip watering that day. If the soil feels dry, give the plant a watering.
- Check the soil moisture daily for at least 6 weeks or until the plant is fully leafed out. Once your bare root plant is fully leafed out, checking the soil 2 to 3 times a week, depending on weather, should be sufficient.

Note: Yard sprinklers may or may not water the plants sufficiently, so please use the finger test (step 5) every day to gauge soil moisture.