

BARE-ROOT PLANTING GUIDE

BARE-ROOT PLANT FACTS

The trees you are receiving today are bare-root, meaning they do not have soil around their roots. The plants were grown in nursery beds, lifted from the ground while dormant and shipped in bags. Bare-root trees and shrubs should be planted before the buds open in the spring.

KEEP ROOTS MOIST

Plant or pot up your bare-root plants as soon as possible. Keep plants cool and roots moist until planted, and store in a shaded, cool location.

FALL IS THE IDEAL SEASON TO PLANT

Spring can be a challenging time to plant. Rains are diminishing just as plants are coming out of winter dormancy, requiring increasing amounts of water. In fall the soil is warm enough for roots to grow while the top of the plant is going dormant. And, fall rains provide water for the new plantings.

If possible pot up plants or put them in a nursery over the summer then plant them in a permanent home in the fall. Put potted plants in an area sheltered from the wind and direct sunlight where irrigation water is readily available. Remember potted plants require more frequent watering than seedlings in the ground.



WATERING

For lowest mortality and good establishment, new plantings need to be watered throughout the first two or three growing seasons. Water infrequently (1-2 times a month) and deeply (soak the entire root zone to encourage roots to grow deep).

PROTECTING YOUR NEW PLANTINGS

Deer and rodents, among other mammals, often damage new seedlings. Several types of tree protectors are available, or fences can be installed, to keep deer from browsing on new plantings. Voles are especially troublesome in grassy areas, as they often girdle the base of new plants. Protect stems with commercial plant protectors or a piece of corrugated drain pipe with a slit in it (see picture at right). As a side benefit when performing maintenance around new plants, the pipe will protect the tree from being damaged by string trimmers.



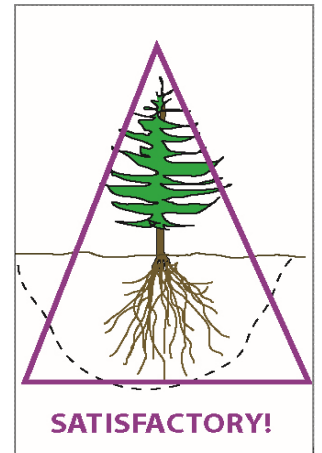
AFTER-PLANTING CARE

Grass or other thick vegetation should be mowed or trimmed occasionally to reduce competition. Brightly colored flagging can be tied onto new plants, or taller stakes installed next to plants, to allow small plants to be easily located.

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STEPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PLANTING OF BARE-ROOT TREES AND SHRUBS

- If possible, soak bare-root stock in water 2-4 hours just prior to planting.
- Scalp a two-foot circle for a planting area, removing all sod and weeds.
- Dig a hole wide enough and deep enough for roots to spread out.
- Position the roots so they hang down and are not turned up or crowded.
- Plant trees and shrubs to the depth they were planted in the nursery. The junction of the stem and root should be level with the ground.
- Back fill the planting hole with loose soil and gently pack the surface after filling the hole. Do not add fertilizer or amend soils in the planting hole; they will discourage roots from growing out to seek nutrients and moisture.
- Create a small basin around the planting hole to hold water by forming a small berm.
- Water thoroughly after backfilling the planting hole to eliminate any remaining air pockets.
- Apply mulch (compost, wood chips or bark) around the planting to help retain moisture and reduce competing vegetation.



IMPROPER PLANTING TECHNIQUES

