



Preparing Your Plants for Planting: Rinse the roots thoroughly. You will need to soak them in water for at least 8 hours. This ensures that they're properly hydrated before planting. You may need to cut off any damaged roots.

Some of our shrubs, berries and hedges are pre-pruned before shipping. Pruning is vital to the growth of your bare-root plants and trees. This does not harm them in any way. You will need to trim shrubs and hedges back even further once the growing season begins.

There should be a visible dirt line on most trees, shrubs, bushes and hedges. Do not plant any deeper than this visible dirt line.

Temporary Planting: Sometimes Mother Nature doesn't permit planting upon receiving. Do not panic, you can temporarily heal your plants into a bucket of loose soil, mulch or other planting material. Make sure there is ample drainage and that they're kept in a cool dry area free from direct sunlight.

Pre-Pruning:

After bare-root trees are dug, they tend to have more at the top than at the bottom. Root loss during harvest is natural and does not harm the tree, it promotes new root growth. Pruning the top will do the same while restoring balance of the tree between the top part and the roots.

While it may seem wasteful to trim some of the beautiful top of the tree, the remaining tree will start off faster, promote branching and is necessary for optimal fruit production and longevity of the tree. If you do not prune the tree back the chances of it establishing successfully are reduced.

Your fruit trees and shade trees may have been pre-pruned prior to shipping. Fresh pruning cuts will be visible and easy to identify. If so, then you're all set, no further pruning will be needed.

If pruning is necessary, it is always best to cut just above a good cluster of buds. Typically, 6-12" will be enough to encourage healthy growth on most of our 1-year trees. All cuts should be done at a 45* degree angle, so moisture does not collect and allow for rot and disease to settle in. When making the cut (always use sharp secateurs) locate a cluster or single bud at the approximate height, make a slanting cut away from the bud. If there are several small side shoots cut them back to about 1". Too many small side shoots will divide the energy of the tree so that strong side branches will not form.

Major pruning should be don't in the winter months when the tree is dormant and most of its energy is stored in the trunk and roots.

Shade, Flowering & Fruit Trees:

Choose a sunny location. The soil should be loose and of good quality. -Free from rocks, weeds and old root systems. Dig the holes at least twice the width and depth of the root mass. The roots on fruit trees and some oak trees tend to grow outward. Working in some peat moss, manure, humus with the existing soil is always recommended. Place the tree in the hole just above the root line. Begin adding back the dirt and/or mixture you have prepared. Once covered, gently pat the dirt and water once more. Do not over pack, as this will allow the water to run off later. Water at least 3 times a week for spring/summer seasons and only 1-2 times a week, or "as needed" during fall/winter seasons. Trees under 3-4' should be staked.

Shrubs & Bushes:

Dig holes twice as wide and just as deep as the root system. Place the plant in the hole making sure to steady the plant straight and level. Begin slowly backfilling the soil you excavated. As you backfill, firm the soil lightly around the roots to eliminate air pockets, continuing until you reach the top of the root mass. Water thoroughly. We do not recommend adding anything to the soil or amending the soil when you plant. Peat moss, compost, garden soil, potting mix and other products can cause drainage problems that make it difficult for your shrub to get established.

Hedges & Evergreens:

First you will want to get your line straight. You can use a rope stretched between two stakes to make sure your line is straight. Begin by placing the two end plants in their positions and then space the remaining plants evenly between them. Take your time with the spacing – gaps will show for quite a long time. The hole should be wider than the root mass and almost as deep. Measure it against your shovel and don't dig down further than that. Set the plant in the hole, making sure your plant sits just above the soil level. Fill half way with water. Once it's watered in, continue backfilling. Do this for every plant down the line. Once all the plants are in the ground, you'll need to water them again. Give your plants plenty of water at first and water them regularly.

Roses:

Choose a sunny planting site. Dig holes twice the size of the root system. Mix soil with an equal amount of organic matter such as compost or ground bark. Place some of the mixture in the bottom of the hole, creating a cone shaped mound. Fill the hole with soil and create a watering basin around the plant. Water well then mulch heavily. Once the plant begins to leaf out, pull the mulch away from the stems and fertilize.

Perennials:

Most perennials prefer full sun and well-drained soil. Beds should be tilled thoroughly before beginning. Till the area to a depth of about 10 inches, add a few inches of compost, and till again. If the plant has top growth, you'll be able to see the original soil line. If there is no top growth, you'll want to set the plant so the crown -- the top of the roots where the stems will emerge -- sits at or just below the soil line. The width of the planting hole should be one and one half the size of the root mass. Build a cone of soil in the bottom of the planting hole. Do not add fertilizer to the planting hole. Place the plant in the hole, spreading the roots around the surface of the cone. Gently backfill the hole, firming the soil as you go. Don't step on the soil -- just press it down with your hands. Leave a slight depression around the plant to hold water. Water the plant, saturating the soil around the plant. Once the plant is established, lay a 2- to 3-inch thick layer of mulch around plants to conserve moisture and deter weeds. Be sure to leave a few inches bare around the base of the plant.

Nut Trees:

Young nut trees have a long tap root with very little branching. Dig a hole that will accommodate the tap root without bending. Prune off any broken or damaged parts of roots. Fill in around the roots with loose soil, tamp firmly, fill hole with water. Then prepare a small catch basin around the trunk for future watering. Do not fertilize. Start fertilizing 1 year after planting. At the first sign of drooping or wilting of the new shoots, provide partial shade if watering does not correct the wilting. Heavy pruning of the top is essential for survival. After planting the young tree, cut off about half of the top to balance the root loss in transplanting; make sure however, that several good buds remain.

Raspberries and Blackberries:

Dig holes at least 2 times the width and the depth of your root mass. Hole should be 3-5 feet apart - rows 6 feet apart. The soil should be rich in humus. Your raspberries and blackberries should always have free flowing air during a growing season. This lowers the humidity and discourages fungus diseases. Keep the ground moist, but provide good drainage. Cultivate early in the season and after the plants are established. Plant black and purple varieties 100 feet away from red and yellow varieties. Keep weeds under control during the growing season. Weeds compete with plants for water, space and nutrients. Control them by either cultivating often or use a mulch to prevent their seeds from germinating.

Blueberries:

Most blueberries require an acidic soil and prefer moist soil with good drainage. Mulching vs cultivating is recommended. When growing blueberries, a PH level of 4.5-5. is the optimum range. We highly recommend that you have your soil tested when planting blueberries. You can achieve this by using compost, organic materials and aluminum sulfate. Spacing the plants according to their growing needs, usually about 5' with 8' between rows. Dig a hole that is twice as wide and deep as the size of the root/dirt system. The plants should be set into the planting hole at the same depth they were growing in

the nursery. You should be able to see a soil line around the stem which will indicate how deep it was. Spread the roots and position each plant so that all the roots will be covered with soil. Do not let them dry out. Backfill with dirt and add water. Gently pat and allow time to take root. Plants should be watered weekly during the first year, unless they receive plenty of rain. Wait four to six weeks after planting before adding any fertilizer. Do not apply fertilizer in late summer or fall. This could stimulate new succulent growth that could become injured during winter.

Asparagus:

When selecting a site, keep in mind that asparagus is a perennial vegetable and the planting bed should not be disturbed. Early soil preparation is essential in order to establish a healthy asparagus bed. Asparagus prefers full sun and a good organic, well drained soil. Dig trenches 6-8" deep and 12-15" wide. Space rows 2.5'-4' apart. Set roots in the bottom of the trench, spacing crowns 18" apart in the row. Spread out roots as far as possible for best root establishment. Cover roots with 2 inches of fine soil and water well. Plants may take 6-8 weeks to emerge.

Follow Up Care:

CULTIVATE - Controlling weeds is important. Frequent shallow cultivation will help.

MULCH - A mulch of your choice is recommended. There are many benefits to mulching. Mulch insulates the soil helping to provide a buffer from heat and cold temperatures. Mulching retains water helping to keep the roots moist. It keeps weeds out to help prevent root competition. Prevents soil erosion, compaction and reduces lawn mower damage.

WATER - Give plants all the water the soil can absorb at one time. Evergreens, especially need to be given ample water in late fall before freezing begins. It is important to give plenty of water during dry spells. This will be necessary the first several years for trees. Watering perennials the first year is especially important. Do not allow the ground to dry out, but do not let it get soggy unless the plant can tolerate moist conditions. Keeping the plants well hydrated will aid in their root development and help the plant get established before winter. After the first year, when the plants are well established, many perennials can even tolerate dry periods. Nature's rainfall should be enough water unless there are prolonged dry spells.

FERTILIZE - We don't recommend fertilizing your trees the first year. Trees should be fertilized regularly only after the first year. Once your perennials are well rooted, typically the second year, you can begin fertilizing. Fertilizing too soon can damage tender root systems. Be patient, wait to fertilize.

PRUNE - At planting, remove only diseased, dead, or broken branches. Begin training a plant during the dormant season following planting. Prune to shape young trees, but don't cut back the leader. Remove crossing branches and branches that grow back towards the center of the tree. You only mean to improve the structure of your tree. **Happy Planting!**