

# Planting Bare Root Trees and Shrubs

## A Step-by-step Guide

From the Professionals at



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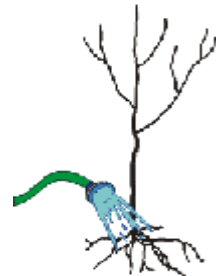
### Step-By-Step Guide to Planting Bare Root Trees and Shrubs

Bare root describes field grown deciduous trees or shrubs whose root system has been dug and made bare. These trees are relatively less expensive due to the reduction in field labor and shipping costs. They are easy to plant and, because they are dormant at the time of planting, they establish quickly. Here are some steps to ensure your success.

#### 1. Selecting a place for your plant:

Select a place for your plant that meets the requirements of the plant such as sun/shade, wet/dry etc. Be sure the plant will not overgrow the area or if it must be pruned, there is access to it. If it is a fruit bearing plant, be sure there is access to harvest and spray as needed.

#### 2. Bringing your tree or shrub home:



Bare root trees and shrubs come from the nursery just as the name implies - with bare roots. This makes it essential that you plant the tree right away. As soon as you get your tree or shrub home, place it in a cool area away from direct sun and wet the roots down.

Keep the roots moist and cool while you are preparing the hole. **DO NOT SUBMERGE THE ROOTS IN WATER OR SUBJECT THE TREE TO EXCESSIVE HEAT OR FREEZING.** Remember that trees and shrubs are living organisms and have specific requirements.

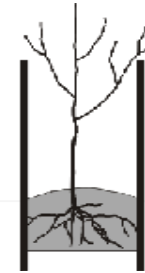


#### 3. Preparing the hole:

Dig the hole large enough to accommodate the entire root system without bending or pruning them. Mix the soil you dug from the hole half-and-half with **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**. If the soil mix is dry, moisten it with water.



#### 4. Setting the tree / shrub:



Before setting the plant in the hole, be sure the roots are wet. Water them down if necessary. Set the plant in the hole so that the top root is no more than 1 inch below the native soil line. Fill around the root system

using the soil/mulch combination. Pile it up liberally—you can remove the excess later. Do not pack the soil yet.

#### 5. Staking the tree:

Unless you have a shrub, staking is very important with bare root. Stabilizing the tree ensures proper root growth. Drive a stake in either side of the hole beside the root system. Tie the tree with Stretch-Tie taking care not to cut into the bark of the tree.

#### 6. Packing the soil:

Using a stick or the handle of the shovel, poke around the roots filling any air pockets with soil mix being careful not to break any roots. Continue this until the soil is firmly packed. Remove any excess soil and pack the surface with your hand or foot. Be sure all roots are covered and that

