

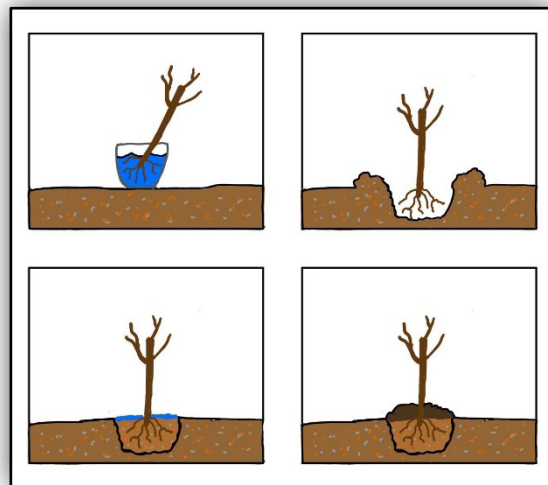
Tree Planting Instructions

When to Plant

Your bare-root seedling should be planted as soon as possible. It should be planted during the dormancy period – before buds emerge. If planting is not possible, store the tree in a cool, shaded area. Keep the roots damp but not soggy.

Planting Instructions

1. Remove the tree from the plastic bag and gently untangle the roots. If they have dried, soak them in water for at least three to four hours. This helps to regenerate the root hairs so that they can begin to absorb water and nutrients after establishment.
2. Before digging your hole, follow the “*Right Plant, Right Place*” motto. Make sure the planting location has the right conditions for the tree. This includes soil properties, moisture levels, mature size, and amount of the sunlight the area receives throughout the day.
3. Remove all grass within a three-foot circular area. Dig a hole that is twice the diameter of the root spread and just to the depth of the root system. The hole should be large enough to prevent the roots from crowding or bending.
4. Hold the tree in the middle of the hole. Ensure that the root flare (where the trunk transitions into roots) is slightly above ground level. Then add loose soil around the, ensuring that soil infiltrates the roots; periodically shake the tree lightly to settle the soil, or use a soil knife to encourage soil in the gaps. Continue filling the hole and *slightly* packing the soil down until you have filled the hole, up to the root flare.
5. Create a rim of soil approximately eight – ten inches away from the trunk. Thoroughly water the soil around the tree, making sure to soak the entire root system. This watering helps eliminate any air pockets in the soil. Lastly add one to two inches of mulch around the tree, keeping it away from the trunk of the tree.



First Year Tree Care

Watering

Your newly planted tree will spend lots of its energy trying to establish its roots in the soil. By proper watering, you can help this process. Your tree should receive a deep watering as needed during the first growing season to keep the root system moist but not sitting in water. After that, one inch of rain or irrigation a week keeps it in excellent health.

Mulching

Mulching will your new tree to retain moisture and prevent weeds from growing. Do not over-mulch around the base of the tree as this encourages fibrous root growth that could lead to girdling the trunk. This may also increase the potential for pest problems.