

# Planting Bareroot Trees and Shrubs



## Care of Trees Before Planting

Do not allow tree roots to dry out or expose them to warm temperatures from the time you pick up the trees until they are planted. Exposure of root systems to drying conditions, *sun or wind*, is the cause of many planting failures. If planting is possible within a week after you receive your trees from the nursery, you may

leave them in the original package for transporting to the planting area as long as you are keeping the roots moist. Store the package in a cool place. Refrigerated storage is ideal, but covering packaged seedlings with snow or space blankets in a shaded location will keep them in good shape for several days. Ideal temperatures are 34°F to 38°F with 95% humidity. If you must delay planting and refrigerated storage is not available, unpack and “heel” in trees.

**Follow these steps:**

- Dig V-shaped trench in a moist, shady place.
- Break bundles and spread out evenly, three to four trees thick. Fill in loose soil and water well.
- Complete filling in soil and firm with hands.

*Bareroot trees and shrubs are a type of nursery stock that are delivered without soil or a pot around the roots. These plants are grown in nursery beds, lifted from the ground while dormant and shipped in bags. Bareroot trees and shrubs should be planted before the buds open in spring.*

## Hand Planting Techniques

Make the hole deep enough for all roots.

Remove one tree at a time from bucket only after hole is ready for the tree.

Place all tree roots in a downward position.

Place tree in center of hole.

Hold treetop upright while working soil around roots.

Firm soil around roots by hand while filling hole, leaving no air spaces. Make sure to use moist soil. Bring soil level to root collar (look for color change on stem) above the first roots. Too deep is better than too shallow. Firm soil all around tree by hand to give good compaction. Water the plant thoroughly to eliminate any remaining air pockets.

## Common Planting Errors and a Correctly Planted Bareroot Tree #12

