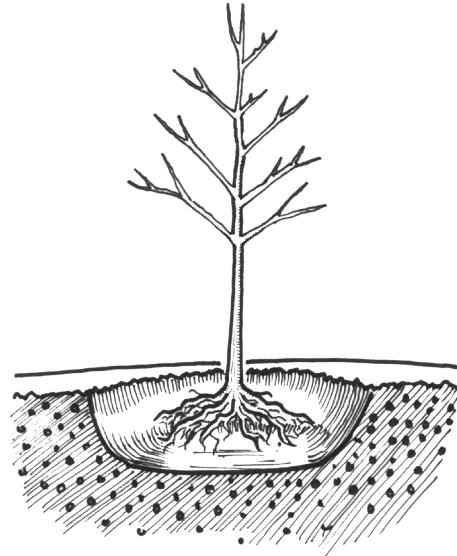


# PLANTING BARE ROOT FRUIT TREES

## PLANTING YOUR TREE

Bare root fruit trees are commonly available late winter and early spring. Try to avoid planting in heavy wet soil. The hole you dig should be large enough to accommodate the roots. A good recommendation is a hole twice the size of the root spread. Break up the sides of the hole a bit so the roots can grow outward. Add 1 part compost to 1 part existing soil, and mix in **Down To Earth's Tree & Shrub 4-2-4** or **Bio-Live 5-4-2** fertilizer to ensure a good start. (Note: mix fertilizer into the planting hole; do not place the plant directly on top of the fertilizer). Place the tree in the hole, and take care to plant the graft 2-3" above ground level. Refill the hole with a good mix of compost and existing soil, firming it in to be sure there are no air pockets.



## GENERAL CARE AFTER PLANTING

Once the tree is planted, water it deeply at least once or twice a week (dependent on the weather) until the tree begins to establish itself. Any broken or damaged branches may be pruned at this time. The tree should then be fertilized at least twice per year with a good all purpose organic fruit tree food such as **Down To Earth's Tree & Shrub 4-2-4**, **Fruit Tree 6-2-4**, **Citrus Mix 6-3-3** (if using on citrus) or **All Purpose Mix 4-6-2**.

## THE BENEFITS OF BARE ROOT TREES

Bare root fruit trees offer an affordable, easy way to reap the benefits of fresh fruit right out of your garden. Bare root trees are generally available January-March during the dormant season, and will establish themselves quickly as the weather warms. This guide offers some basic tips to make the planting of your new tree a success.

## CARE BEFORE PLANTING

To guarantee transplant success, keep the roots damp until planting. If some time is going to pass before you are able to plant, then be sure to heel in the tree. This is done by digging a hole and covering the roots with sawdust, mulch or soil.

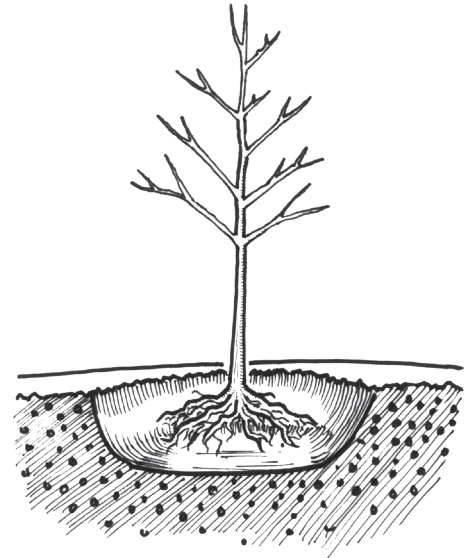
## CHOOSING A SITE

Choosing a site for your new tree is as important a step as the actual planting itself. Most fruit trees prefer good drainage and full sun. Since the majority of the trees sold today are either semi-dwarf or dwarf varieties, spacing is not as big of an issue as the planting of large standard type trees. Trees that are semi-dwarf require much less space. Planting your fruit trees 15-20 feet apart is a good rule of thumb to allow easy access for pruning and maintenance, as well as air circulation and light.

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