



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!

# A GUIDE TO PLANTING BARE ROOT TREES

Congratulations on the purchase of your new trees!  
Need to know how to plant and care for them? Follow this simple guide.

When and where? Your trees should be planted as soon as possible and no more than two days after pick up. Make sure the roots are kept moist. You can wrap the roots in dampened newspaper or paper towels. Keep your trees in the plastic until they are ready to go into the ground. Store in a cool, dark place. Before you begin digging holes, consider the average size of a mature tree to help with placement and spacing.

## PLANTING STEPS

1. Before planting, soak roots in water for 4-to-6 hours to ensure proper hydration.
2. Dig a wide and shallow hole. The hole should only be as deep as the root system and 2-to-3 times wider.
3. Spread out roots evenly within the hole. Avoid J-rooting where the roots point upward. Position the plant so the line between stem and roots is at or slightly above ground level.
4. Fill the hole halfway with soil. Pat down and add water. This will eliminate air pockets.
5. Finish filling the hole and pat down. Ensure that the hole is not filled beyond the crown line, the line between root and stem. Water again.
6. Water your trees generously after planting. Amount and frequency of water is dependent on weather conditions, soil type, and plant species. A rule of thumb is to water once or twice a week, barring rain, and more frequently during hot, windy weather. The area for watering will expand as the tree and roots grow.
7. Avoid placing grass or sod in the soil around the plant. Instead, consider mulching. Add a 2-to-4 inch layer of organic mulch around the plant. This will help retain moisture and improve soil health. Do not let the mulch touch the base as this can cause rot.
8. Do not fertilize your newly planted trees.

Find more planting tips and resources at:  
[vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/tree-care/tree-planting](http://vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/tree-care/tree-planting)



FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, CONTACT YOUR  
LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

