

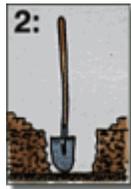
HOW TO PLANT BARE ROOT TREES

The following information comes from the National Arbor Foundation. Their website for this information is www.arboday.org/trees/NineNum8.cfm.

It is best to plant bare-root trees immediately, in order to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist.



1: Unpack tree and soak in water 3 to 6 hours. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots, and do not allow roots to dry out.



2: Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three-foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter.



3: Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Do not add soil amendments.



4: Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly packed with your heel. Construct a water-holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.

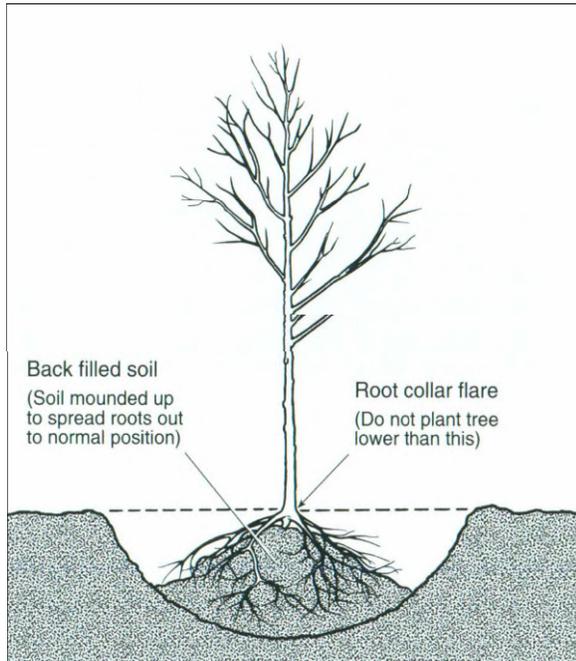


5: After the water has soaked in, place a 2-inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but not touching the trunk).



6: Water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first

Additional instructions and information can be found at the eHow webpage. Their webpage can be found at www.ehow.com/how_16021_plant-bare-root.html.



Step 1 Plant bare-root [trees and shrubs](#) in winter and very early spring (from mid-November to mid-March in most parts of the country) when the plants are dormant and the ground isn't frozen solid. They'll have a chance to put out new roots before they have to cope with hot sun, drying winds and the added stress of producing leaves.

Step 2 Remove any packing material carefully, and rinse off or gently pull off any clumps of earth clinging to the roots; clip off any dead or damaged roots.

Step 3 Immerse the roots in a bucket of water to soak for at least one to four hours, but no longer than overnight. Supplying enough moisture is key to the success of bare-root planting.

Step 4 Dig a hole that's at least two feet wider than the root system and about as deep as the point

where the roots flare from the trunk (or stems in the case of a [shrub](#)). Using your shovel, loosen the soil on the sides of the hole so it doesn't solidify around the plant's roots. *When planting bare root trees, the hole should be about 3 to 3 ½-feet wide and 2 feet deep, and the root collar should be located above the soil. Courtesy Planting Trees and Shrubs for Long-Term Health.*

Step 5 Mound soil in the bottom of the hole so that the peak reaches just about ground level.

Step 6 Place stakes in the hole if you're planting a tree that will need support (see "eHow to Stake and Tie a Tree").

Step 7 Set the tree or shrub on top of the mound so the roots cascade down over the sides. Spread them gently with your hands if you need to, and add or remove soil so that top of the root system is just at ground level.

Step 8 Fill the hole about halfway with soil and tamp it lightly with your foot to remove large air pockets.

Step 9 Make sure the tree or shrub is standing straight up, then water slowly to saturate the soil and remove any remaining air pockets.

Step 10 Finish filling the hole with soil. Use any extra to build a temporary berm above the perimeter of the roots and water again.

Step 11 Keep the soil moist for the first year after planting. Mulch to retain moisture, but keep at least six inches bare around the trunk. Check frequently; if you see yellow leaves or the soil feels dry, water immediately.

(TURN OVER)