


















HOW TO PLANT YOUR BARE-ROOTED OR POTTED FRUIT TREE

IMPORTANT! If your tree is bare rooted, it is important to keep the tree roots hydrated at all times. Wrap them in damp newspaper and a plastic bag to take them home. Plant them as soon as possible. Also make sure you DO NOT BUMP THE GRAFT when transporting your tree. The new graft union is fragile and if it is dislodged it will not join. Leave grafting tape on tree for six months.

-  Before planting, it is preferable to soak tree roots, whether potted or bare-rooted, in a bucket of water or weak seaweed solution for half an hour.
-  Ensure on all forms of grafting that any green shoots appearing from the rootstock (i.e. below the graft) are regularly removed.
-  Measure the depth and width of the soil in your tree's container. Dig a hole to that depth and two to three times wider. Pile the excavated soil to the side to be used later.
-  Pour a bucket of water to the hole to test drainage.
-  Loosen the soil around the sides of the hole to help roots penetrate into the native soil. Add some organic matter, such as compost and aged manure.
-  Build up a small pile of soil in the bottom of the hole.
-  Slip the tree out of its pot or remove the planter bag. Using sharp, sterile secateurs, prune off only those roots that tightly encircle the trunk or are broken. With your hand, loosen and gently spread roots that encircle the root ball.
-  Set your tree in the hole, spreading the roots evenly over the small pile of soil without bending or breaking them. Lay a shovel handle across hole to check the planting depth. The top of the root ball should just touch the shovel handle. Add or remove soil until the top of the root ball is at the appropriate level.
-  Gently 'tremble' the tree as you put the soil back into the hole. This ensures that the soil gets into the spaces between the roots.
-  Make sure the graft union of the tree is above soil level.
-  Water the tree in thoroughly. Keep the soil moist for the next few months while your tree is settling in. Regular deep watering is essential until the tree's root system is established into the surrounding soil.
-  Label your tree so that you know which variety it is.
-  Staking is necessary for young tree with tender branch/trunk or fruit trees grafted on certain dwarf rootstock (eg. M27, M9, Bud9, etc for apple trees). Use two to three stakes and tie it fairly loosely with flexible, pliable tree-clips or soft ties. As the tree gets bigger and stronger, remove them. Do not use hard ties such as wire, as these may ringbark the tree as its girth expands, and eventually kill it.
-  Apply a layer of mulch around the tree. Soil or mulch piled against a trunk can cause rot, keep the mulch at least a few centimetres away from the trunk.
-  Water the tree in