

PLANTING BAREROOT TREES

It is important to follow these steps when planting a bare root tree.

1. Prune

It is critical to prune a bare rooted tree prior to planting. Remove 30% - 50% of the branches from the tree in an even manner with clean secateurs. This will bring the tree back into balance and ensure it flourishes in spring, as well as helping to form a strong framework of branches.

2. Dig

Prepare a hole that is one-and-a-half times the size of the root system. Place a shovel-full of soil back into the base of the hole as a loose, soft bed for the roots to sit on before filling the rest of the soil around the roots.

3. Plant

Plant the tree to the soil level. Gently grazing the rootstock will reveal a colour change. The tree should not be planted deeper than this transition point. Once you have planted the tree, lightly pack the soil down with your foot – not too firm, but firm enough to reduce the number of air pockets in the soil.

4. Well

Make a small well around the base of the tree – making sure it will be above the roots – not wider than the roots. You may also like to place a handful of good complete fertiliser at the base of the tree prior to watering.

5. Water

Fill the well with a standard garden bucket of water the day you plant the tree and weekly through to summer.

