

*The fundamental considerations and subtle nuances of growing and caring for trees are beyond the scope of this introduction to bare root tree care. Please see our website where we offer excellent books on fruit tree care, as well as instructional videos and articles.*

**Receiving Your Trees:** When you receive your trees, they will be boxed securely with their roots wrapped in plastic and their limbs and roots trimmed back (not fully pruned) to fit the package. First, inspect the bag and make sure that the media around the roots is moist. In the event that the media requires additional moisture, use a clean spray bottle to moisten it evenly. If you are not ready to plant upon arrival, see the "Heeling in" section below. Make sure your tree's roots do not freeze hard. Place them in a sheltered location like a garage if you expect a freeze before your trees are planted. It is essential that the young tree roots have plenty of time to become established before the tree begins its spring limb growth and bud break, so plant the tree while it is in deep dormancy.

**Heeling In:** When your bare root trees arrive, open the plastic bags immediately. It is best to plant right away, within a week of delivery, however if you cannot plant right away, you may "heel in" the trees to protect them and keep them alive (but still dormant) until you are able to plant them in their permanent spot.

**Outdoors:** To heel in bare root trees outside, pick a location that is shielded from wind. Dig a trench about twice as deep as the roots are long, with one side of the trench sloping at a 45° angle. Place the tree roots side down, so that the trunks are supported by the sloping side. Cover the roots with sawdust, dirt, wood shavings, but don't use cedar or redwood shavings because they are toxic to the trees, be sure to keep the root area moist, and gently tamp down to avoid air pockets. Periodically check the root area, keeping the soil moist.

**Indoors:** To heel in bare root trees indoors, whether due to snow or a frozen ground, choose a cool place like a root cellar, basement, or garage. It's important to choose a place where the temperature stays between 38°F and 45°F. This is important so the tree roots neither freeze, nor does the tree break dormancy. Place the roots in a container and cover the roots with sawdust, dirt, wood shavings, but don't use cedar or redwood shavings because they are toxic to the trees, and be sure to keep the root area moist. See our "Heeling in Bare Root Trees" video for more details.

If you don't have a permanent location for your tree or are just not ready to plant it in the ground, you can plant it in a pot for a short-term solution. It is recommended to use at least a 10 gallon pot. Nut trees have a very large root system and should be planted in the ground (not recommended to plant in a pot).

**Planting Location:** Fruit trees are a long-term investment and caring for them properly, right from the start, will ensure years of enjoyment and productivity. Maintenance will be greatly minimized as the tree matures, if you provide adequate care early on. Therefore, you should carefully choose a planting location.

**Light and Air:** Even an hour or two of extra shade a day can

## Important Information

- **If your tree arrived damaged**, take photographs and contact us immediately and we will provide you with a refund of the purchase price, or a replacement. *Please note: broken branches do not affect the viability of the tree.* Please watch our video "**Bare Root (Dormant) Warranty**" for more information on how to determine the viability of your tree.
- **You should plant your tree in the ground by April 1st.** If you are unable to do so, you can plant it in a pot or "heel in" your tree until you are able to plant.
- **The main trunk will be pruned to 4 ft.** This will direct the tree's energy into developing a strong root system.
- Both roots and branches may also be pruned. Please do not be alarmed! We work closely with our tree grower to make sure the amount of pruning we do will not stunt the growth of your new tree.
- Your tree may not have any branching, but new branches will grow from buds along the trunk.
- **In the rare event that your tree does not leaf out by May 15th**, we offer a Limited Guarantee on dormant trees. See the last page for details.

## *Check Out Our* **How-to Videos & Blogs**

[www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening](http://www.groworganic.com/organic-gardening)

### **Videos**

[How to Heel In Bare Root Trees](#)  
[How to Plant a Tree](#)  
[Fruit Tree Spraying](#)  
[How to Prune a Fruit Tree](#)  
[Fertilizing Fruit Trees](#)

### **Blogs**

[Summertime Fruit Tree Care](#)  
[Pruning Science: How Trees Heal](#)  
[How to Choose the Right Pruning Tool](#)  
[The Best Pollination for Your Fruit Trees](#)  
[Debunking Bare Root Fruit Tree Myths](#)