

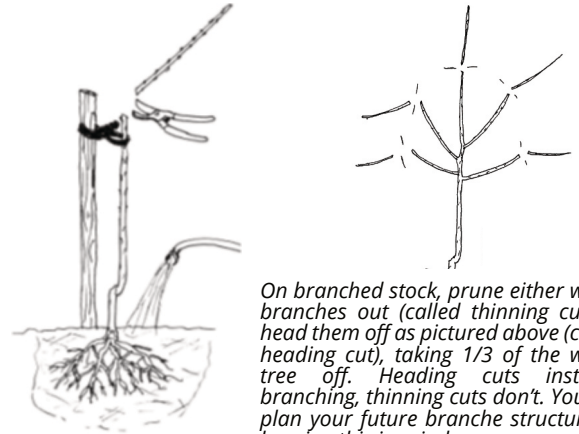


# Planting Instructions: Bareroot Fruit Trees

Upon receiving your order, open the box right away; check the roots are moist, and then store the trees in a cool, dark place until planting (ideally within 24 hours).

## The Basics:

- Protect trees from warmth & freezing (0° C to 5°C is ideal) until roots are in the ground
- Plant Immediately
- Prune off the top 1/3 of each tree after planting
- Water new plants weekly in the first year
- Protect each tree with a trunk guard before winter



*On branched stock, prune either whole branches out (called thinning cut) or head them off as pictured above (called heading cut), taking 1/3 of the whole tree off. Heading cuts instigate branching, thinning cuts don't. You can plan your future branch structure by keeping this in mind as you prune.*

## And In A Little More Detail:

**PLANTING:** Timely planting of bare root plants is essential for success. The trees have been freshly dug, then stored in a controlled environment at the nursery until they reach you. Keep the plants in a cool, dark place and never let the roots dry out. Bare roots are particularly sensitive to wind and sun, and love being planted on a grey, rainy day. Soak the roots about 20 minutes prior to planting (we use a 5 gal pail with mycorrhizal inoculant which we then water the tree with). Dig the planting hole large enough to allow roots to evenly spread in all directions to anchor the tree, about 40-50 cm wide and deep. Reserve the soil, plant the tree, and backfill the hole with the native soil that you dug. Nursery stock should be planted at the same height or a little deeper than it grew in the nursery. Leaving roots exposed will stress the plant. However, be careful that the grafted portion of the tree is not buried or it may take root and bypass any dwarfing effect of the rootstock. Install a (bamboo) stake and securely tie the tree to stake to limit movement, but not too tightly or you may girdle the tree.

**AFTER CARE:** Pruning off the top 1/3 of the tree may seem drastic, but it is very important. The roots will have less top growth to feed until they become established, balancing out the root to shoot ratio. We recommend pruning 1/3 away for the first 3 years of the tree's life while it establishes itself. Water is the most important nutrient for newly planted trees. Water trees at planting time and at least weekly when there is less than one inch of rainfall per week, in the order of approximately one 5 gallon pail per week – if you are unsure when to water, feel the soil. It should be moist but not muddy. Plastic spiral guards (or fine mesh) are recommended for effective protection against mouse and rabbit damage. Apply the guards in October, and push them down slightly into the soil. Remove in April, or once other vegetation breaks dormancy and threat of girdling is past in your area.

**FERTILIZING & MULCHING:** In healthy soil, fertilizing is not necessarily needed. High concentrations of fertilizer (including manure and compost) near the roots can have a burning effect. In depleted soils, fertilize with bonemeal (high in phosphorus which promotes root growth) or high-quality compost, but be sure to mix it into the soil, not directly onto roots. Mulching the top of the soil with leaves\*, natural wood chips\*, straw\* or peastone is highly recommended as the practice conserves soil moisture, reduces weed pressure, and helps to slowly release nutrients into the soil as they decompose. Materials with an asterisk\*: mulch ~15cm+ thick in a donut around the tree in a radius ~40cm. For peastone, 5cm thick will suffice. Make sure the material is not heaped on the trunk. Using a mycorrhizal inoculant soil drench (or added to the pre-planting soak mentioned above) is always recommended especially when planting into a site without trees nearby: the inoculant prepares the soil ecosystem by adding the mycorrhizal fungi necessary for trees growth by helping the tree get nutrients from the soil right away. Comfrey planted around the drip line of the tree (~1m radius) is an excellent natural, long-term fertilizer.

*For particular spacing and soil requirements of fruit tree species, see our catalogue. Very generally, space full size and semi-dwarf trees 4-5m/15-20' apart and dwarf apples ~1m/4' apart.*



# Planting Instructions: Berries, Vines & Seedlings

Upon receiving your order, open the box right away; check the roots are moist, and then store the trees in a cool, dark place until planting (ideally within 24 hours).

## The Basics:

- Protect plants from warmth & freezing (0° C to 5°C is ideal) until roots are in the ground
- Soak roots 20-30 min in water before planting
- Plant immediately, ensuring all roots are covered
- Water new plants weekly in the first year (unless it rains)
- Add a stake to mark the location of each plant

For general planting instructions, see our **Bareroot Fruit Tree** instruction sheet. Note that most steps can be followed as listed, but berries, vines, and seedlings generally do not need pruning or spiral trunk guards, and the size of the hole should be dug to match the roots of your plant. Likewise mulch applications should be less than what you provide for fruit trees.

## Species Specifications:

**Blackberries and Raspberries:** After planting your canes prune them back to a couple inches above the ground. They can be grown on a trellis, wall, or fence to keep them more compact. Space canes 1-2' apart.

**Blueberries:** Blueberries require acidic soils and high organic matter so some soil amendments should be done beforehand. We recommend a ratio of 1 part potting soil, 1 part peat moss, 4 parts woodchips. If there are no wood chips on hand, 1:1 peat and soil will suffice.

**Cranberries:** Cranberries require acidic soils and high organic matter so some soil amendments should be done beforehand (2 parts peat to 1 part potting soil). Avoid planting cranberries too deep, aim to have the soil line right at the crown.

**Currants:** Plant your currants with some lower buds buried to encourage more growth. Once planted, prune your canes down to 6-10 inches above the soil.

**Elderberries:** Prune your elderberries to 6-10 inches above the ground once planted. For rooted cuttings (plugs), be sure to water bi-weekly for the first 2 months **if** the soil dries out.

**Goji Berry:** Install a trellis or grow your goji berry against a wall/fence to support its weeping growth habit.

**Gooseberries:** Prune your gooseberries to 6-10 inches above the ground once planted.

**Grapes:** Prune your grape vine so only the strongest cane remains and there are only 2-3 buds above the soil. Provide a structure such as a trellis, post, or fence to support your grape vine as it grows.

**Hardy Kiwis:** Provide a trellis, fence, or similar structure for your hardy kiwi to grow along for support.

**Honeyberries/Haskaps:** Do not soak haskap roots before planting them.

**Mulberries:** No special instructions.

**Nannyberries:** No special instructions.

**Roots: Horseradish, Rhubarb and Comfrey:** Find the eyes/crown on the root (places it will grow up from, green (horseradish/comfrey) or red (rhubarb) leaves may be sprouting from them), and plant that side up with the root end pointing down. If you want more plants, you can plant a 2-6" piece of root 2-3" below the soil, at a 45° angle for horseradish, horizontal for comfrey, or verticle for rhubarb.

**Rugosa and Canina Roses:** Soak your roses for up to 12h before planting. Once you have dug the planting hole, create a small mound of soil in the middle. Place the rose on top and spread its roots out from there.

**Saskatoon Berries:** Add compost to the hole where you are planting your Saskatoon berry. These plants take their time in the early years (similar to Pawpaw), and it may seem like they aren't up to much. Rest assured, good things come to those who wait!

**Sea Buckthorn:** Sea buckthorn may sucker aggressively from the base so it is best to not plant them too close to buildings or driveways. Prune as needed to expose the terminal area to more sunlight; you can shape them into a tree shape or establish multiple 'trunks'.

**Spicebush:** No special instructions.

**Tree Seedlings:** No special instructions for planting; tree guards recommended during winter.

**Wisteria:** Provide a sturdy structure such as a trellis for your wisteria to climb. Wisteria grows quickly so it is recommended you give it plenty of space choose your location keeping this in mind.

*For particular spacing and soil requirements for each species, see our catalogue/website. Very generally, space berries ~1m apart.*