

PLANTING & HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ

I. WATER IMMEDIATELY

Water all plants as soon as they arrive and continue watering daily until you plant. Soil and roots should be kept moist. Insert hose in top of bare root bundles and water thoroughly. Water all balled and container plants enough to soak soil. A light misting of the foliage will also help.



II. IDENTIFY PLANTS

You may have received McKay plants in 3 forms: bare root, B&B & container grown.

A. BARE-ROOT PLANTS

Bare-Root plants are deciduous (they lose their leaves in winter). They are shipped dormant. Each bundle may contain several different plants!

The roots are protected with mulch and wrapped with plastic coated burlap, or a heavy brown paper. Bare-root plants have no soil around the roots and should be kept moist in the packing. Keep in a cool place and plant first. All bare-root plants must be trimmed when planted. Many varieties of plants can be packed together in one bundle. Separate all the plants and cut the twine from smaller groups of plants in a large bundle. Each plant type will be labeled separately for identification. Open and plant all bundles before reporting any shortages. Do not expose roots to sun. They should never dry out.



B. BALLED AND BURLAPPED (B&B) PLANTS

are plants that are dug out of the nursery fields with a ball of earth around the root system. The ball is covered with burlap to keep the soil and roots intact in shipping and transplanting.



C. CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

Plants that are grown in containers.

**PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS
 BEFORE PLANTING.**

III. HOW TO STORE PLANTS UNTIL PLANTING

Plant nursery stock as soon as possible, preferably within a few days of delivery. Plants can be stored with proper care until the weekend if delivered early in the week.

A. Plants should all be stored in a shady, cool area with good ventilation. A cool garage or the north side of the house are good storage areas.

B. Water well daily to keep all plants moist.

C. Keep Bare-root plants from freezing and extreme heat.

D. Remove the twine around the tops of the B&B plants if they will not be planted within a few days.

E. If possible the bare-root bundles should be soaked in water for a day before being planted. This helps plants to break dormancy sooner after planting. Do not submerge tops.

F. Some ground covers may be shipped in a box to protect the small plants. Open the box immediately and water daily until planting.

IV. PREPARING FOR PLANTING

A. USING A LANDSCAPE DESIGN

1. If you haven't already, transfer the planting beds from the design to the yard. Spray paint works well to mark bed lines. A flexible garden hose can also be used as a guide.

2. If grass needs to be removed, it can be done by using a flat spade to lift the sod. A hand sod removal tool can be used or a power sod cutter. No more than 2" down is necessary. Plants can be installed first and sod removed after if time doesn't permit removal first. There are also chemical sod removers - your salesperson can advise you on their uses.

3. Locate where the plants go in your planting beds and mark the locations.

B. GATHER TOGETHER TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

Consider shovel, rakes, garden hose, pruning shears, pocket knife, pick.

C. SOIL PREPARATION

In most instances, existing soil will be adequate. If in doubt, check with your local representative for recommendations.

PLANTING



CALL YOUR LOCAL UTILITY

Before you dig, we suggest you call your local utilities to locate any underground services. The following Hotline services are available: Wisconsin (1-800-242-8511), Illinois (1-800-892-0123),

Minnesota (1-800-252-1166 or 651-454-0002) and Iowa (1-800-292-8989). These locating services generally require 3 working days prior to your planting to mark your property.



PLANTING AND PRUNING BARE ROOT TREES AND SHRUBS

V. PLANT BARE ROOT PLANTS FIRST

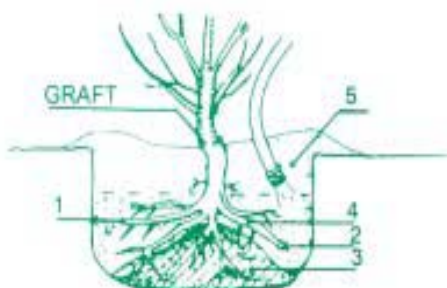
(See specific planting instructions for planting bare root Roses, Rhubarb, Grapes, Raspberries, Asparagus, Ground Covers, Daylilies, Hosta, and Astilbe on page 7 - Special Planting Instructions).

Others should be planted as follows:

A. OPEN ONE BUNDLE AT A TIME

and keep roots covered so they don't dry out. Remove one plant at a time.

1. Dig a hole at least 6" wider and 6" deeper than the root mass of the tree or shrub.
2. Make a fresh cut at the end of the roots (remove approximately 1/4") and trim off any broken roots.
3. Mound topsoil in hole below roots to bring the crown or graft of the plant to slightly higher than ground level. If you are using fertilizer packets, drop it into the bottom of the hole. Do not place other fertilizers in the planting hole.
4. Spread the roots and fill up halfway with soil. Water so soil settles.
5. Readjust plant and fill the hole with the rest of the soil. Pack the soil firmly around the plant and water well. Remember, if you will be applying mulch around the plant, to leave 2 to 4" of space for the mulch so it doesn't cover the crown of the plant.



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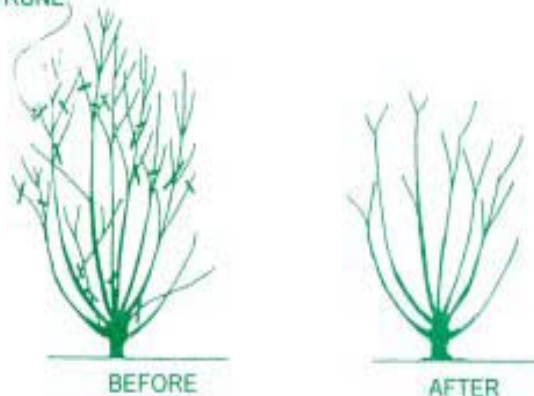
PRUNING BARE ROOT WOODY PLANTS

It is essential to prune all Bare Root Plants. By pruning, you reduce the shock of transplanting, enabling the plant to respond quicker in its new environment. Without pruning, the plant may fail. Pruning should occur either before or as soon after transplanting as possible. Tall trees may be easier to prune before planting. All pruning should be done with a sharp pruning shears.

A. PRUNING BARE ROOT ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

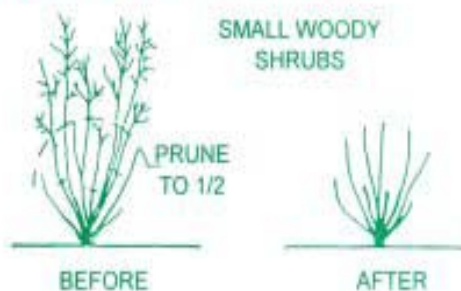
1/3 to 1/2 of the shrub must be thinned out by removing inner branches. Topping back some branches to improve general shape of the plant helps in the overall look of the planting.

PRUNE



B. SPECIAL PRUNING FOR SOME SMALL WOODY SHRUBS

Potentilla, small Spirea, Hydrangea, Snowberry, Elder and Privet shrubs are fast growing and respond better to severe trimming at transplanting. By cutting the shrub back to at least 1/2 its original size, you promote new growth from the base of the plant and remove old flower stalks from the previous year.



C. PRUNING PLANTS FOR USE IN A HEDGE

If you are creating a hedge by using Alpine Currant, Cotoneaster Acutifolia, Clavey's Honeysuckle, Privet, Barberry, etc., prune back by thinning the plant out like a medium shrub and then trimming the sides and tops to start creating a hedge shape. Remember, the more you prune a hedge, the fuller it will be.

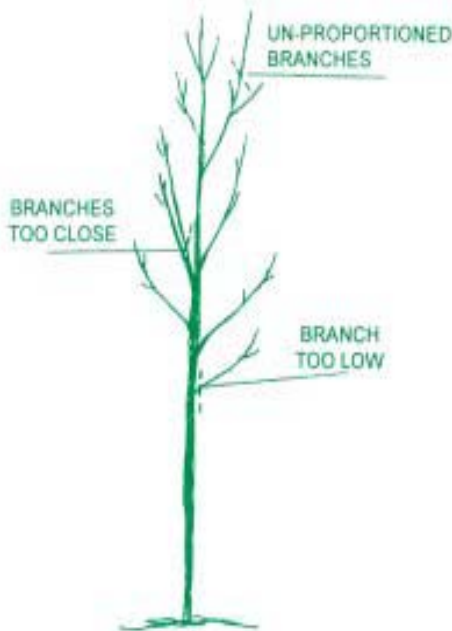


Trim hedges so the base is wider than the top as shown. The result is a fuller, nicer hedge.

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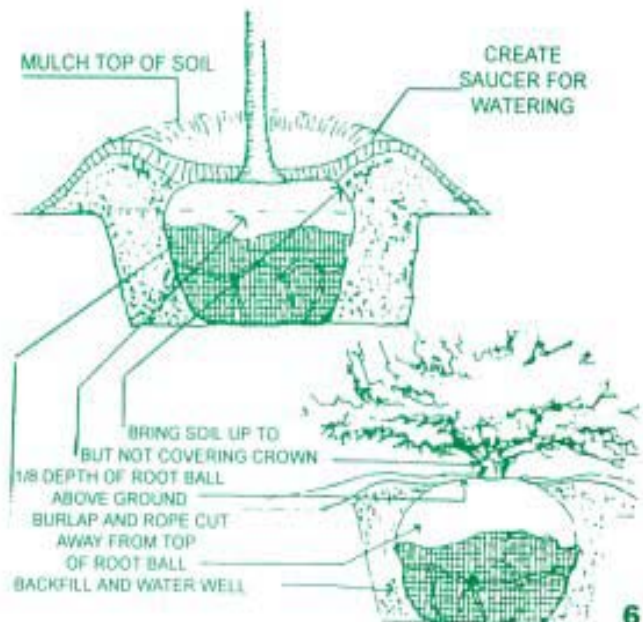
D. PRUNING BARE ROOT SHADE TREES, ORNAMENTAL AND FRUIT TREES

1. Bare root trees need only be pruned to remove any broken or damaged branches or roots.
2. Then remove any lower branches that might be too low. As the tree grows, the branches stay in the same position on the trunk. Removing lower branches will help promote faster top growth.
3. Additional pruning to help in transplanting can be achieved by selectively removing branches that are too close or otherwise might not be proportionate with the rest of the tree.



PLANTING AND PRUNING B&B TREES, SHRUBS AND EVERGREENS

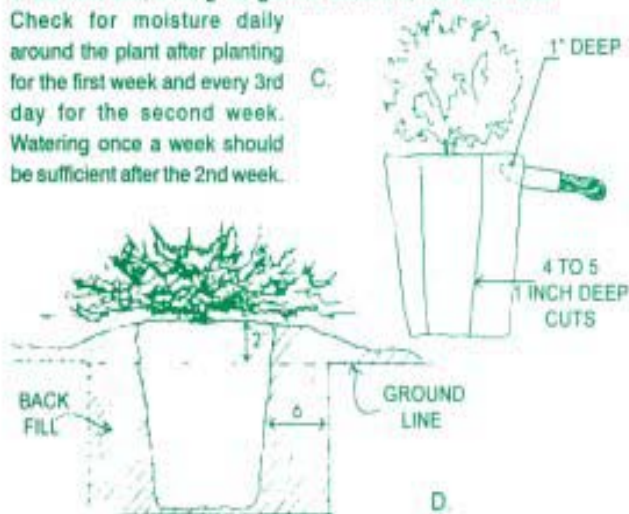
- A. Dig a hole at least 6" wider and as deep as the size of the ball on the plant.
- B. Place root ball into hole. If necessary add soil under the ball to bring the top of the ball a little above ground level (approximately 3" of the ball should be above ground level if you will be adding mulch to the planting bed). In heavy soil with poor drainage the ball should be raised even higher.
- C. When the ball is at the proper height in the hole, cut the twine around the top of the ball. Remove as much burlap as possible. Leave the remaining burlap on the ball. If you are using fertilizer packets, drop it into the bottom of the hole. If there is a wire basket on the ball remove as much of the wire as possible with a wire cutter. If this is not possible bend back the top wire loops into the sides of the hole. Backfill 1/2 of the hole with soil.
- D. Cut any remaining twine to open the plant and adjust the plant so it is straight. Fill the hole and slightly cover the top of the ball with soil. Firm the soil around the plant. Water well to settle soil and soak the ball of earth. If planting when temperature is above 70°, water each root ball daily, about 1 gallon, just to keep the root ball moist. Do so for the first week or two.
- E. Although it is not essential for B&B plants to be pruned after planting, a light pruning for shape or to thin out a heavily branched plant will help in the transplanting process and in the looks of your planting.





PLANTING CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

- A. Keep container plants watered well.
- B. Dig a hole about the depth of the container and 6" wider.
- C. Remove the container by placing your hand underneath the plant and turning the container upside down, tapping the edge of the container and letting the root ball slide into your hand.
- D. With a knife, slice the root ball of the plant about 1" deep 4 or 5 times to disturb the circular root growth and stimulate branching of roots. Loosen exposed roots of root mass.
- E. Place the plant in the hole, adjusting the plant so the root crown is a few inches higher than ground level if you intend to mulch the planting bed. If you are using fertilizer packets, drop them into the bottom of the hole. Fill the hole with soil 1/2 way, water and let settle. Adjust plant if necessary. Fill the rest of the hole with soil to the top of the root ball, firming the ground around it, and water well. Check for moisture daily around the plant after planting for the first week and every 3rd day for the second week. Watering once a week should be sufficient after the 2nd week.



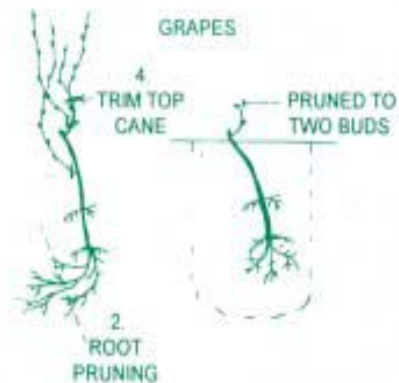
SPECIAL PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

VINES, SMALL FRUITS, PERENNIALS, ETC.

- A. GRAPES
(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)
 1. Dig a broad and deep hole so roots fit comfortably.
 2. Prune all but 8-10" of roots. Place plant in hole so top of graft stem is at ground level.

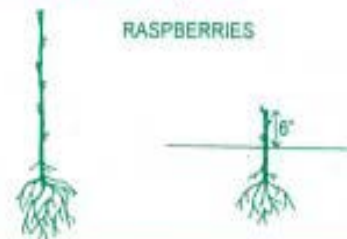
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3. Backfill with rich soil spreading out roots and covering the top of the graft stem.
4. Trim first cane back so that just 2 or 3 buds are left.



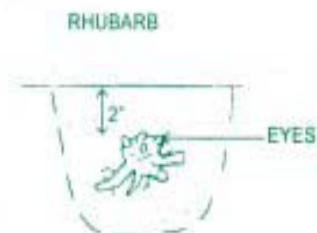
- B. RASPBERRIES
(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)

1. Plant 2 to 3 feet apart in rows 3 to 5 feet apart in well-tilled, weed-free soil.
2. Cut tops back to 6" above the ground.



- C. RHUBARB
(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)

Plant Rhubarb 2 feet apart in rows 3 feet apart in rich, well-drained garden soil with the buds 2" below ground level. (Fertilize Rhubarb liberally with composted manure yearly.) Do not put fertilizer in hole when planting.

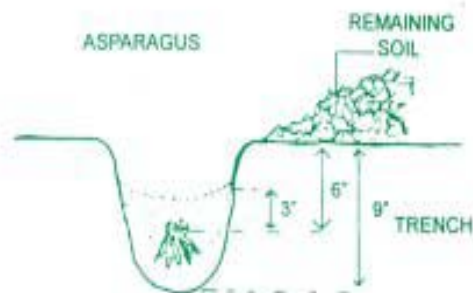


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D. ASPARAGUS

(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)

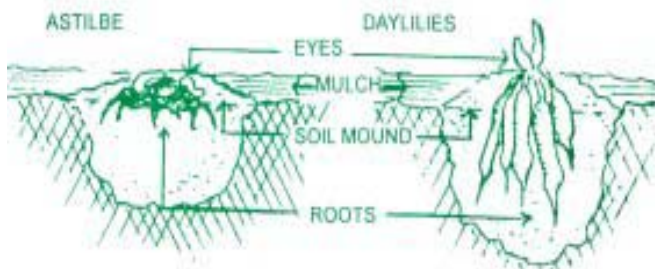
1. Prepare a bed of fine, loamy soil to which a liberal dressing of composted manure has been added and tilled in.
2. Plant 1 foot apart in rows 4 feet apart.
3. To plant, make a trench about 9" deep. Plant Asparagus and cover with 3" of soil. Water well.
4. As plants start to grow, fill in trench with the additional soil until, by Mid-Summer, the ground is level.
5. Fertilize yearly with composted manure. Do not cut Asparagus until 2nd year. Stop annual harvesting about mid-June.



E. BAREROOT ASTILBE, DAYLILIES, HOSTA

(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)

Dig a hole deep and wide enough to accommodate roots comfortably. Plant Hosta, Daylilies or Astilbe so the eyes or top of the plant is at the soil line and all roots are covered. If you will be mulching the bed, plant on a slight mound of soil, to accommodate the 2 to 4" of mulch. Do not cover plants with a heavy layer of mulch or soil.

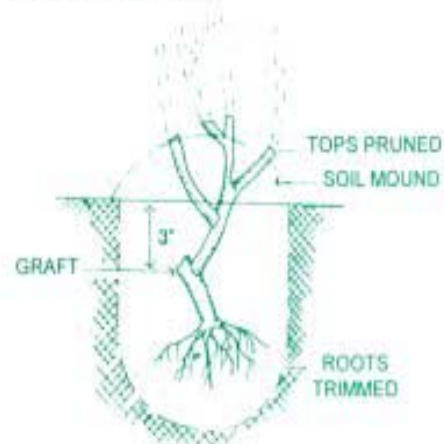


Continued on back

F. ROSES. HYBRID TEA, FLORIBUNDA, GRANDIFLORA

(Soak roots in water overnight before planting if possible.)

1. Select a well-drained site, away from large trees and shrubs, that will have at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. Roses bloom best in full sun.
2. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate roots without crowding and deep enough so the graft is about 2" below ground level.
3. Trim roots, removing 1/4" on ends. Trim off any broken or damaged roots.
4. Make a soil mix of 65% top soil, 10% composted manure and 25% peat moss.
5. Using the soil mix, plant Rose so roots are well spread out and graft is about 2" below ground.
6. Firm the soil and water thoroughly.
7. Mound the top of the plant with 6" of soil to prevent branches from drying out before roots are established. (Carefully remove the soil mound in about 2 weeks, or when buds begin to grow).
8. Prune the tops of the Roses a few inches above the mound of soil after planting.
9. For best results, regular fertilizing with a commercial fertilizer as directed through the growing season is recommended. (Fertilizer should be discontinued in August.)



G. PLANTING GROUND COVERS, such as Pachysandra, Vinca, Ajuga (Bare Root or in Flats)

1. PREPARE THE SOIL. A proper planting bed must be established for ground cover. The bed should consist of 6-8" of top soil, well mixed with approximately 2" of peat moss. This will allow the ground cover to spread properly after planting.

2. Plant ground cover, spacing as directed on landscape design. Usually plants are spaced from 7" to 1' apart.
3. Do not heavily mulch between plants. A very thin layer of shredded bark or cocoa bean hulls will help hold moisture and prevent weeds from growing.

Keep the bed lightly moist and free of weeds in order for the plants to establish and spread quickly.

AFTER PLANTING

Now that you have completed your planting, it is a good time to check for some important points:

1. **PREPARE THE SOIL** Is everything watered well? You can't overwater at the point of planting. A good soaking settles the soil and provides the moisture for the plants to start establishing themselves in the ground. Watering thoroughly after the planting will help to remove air pockets in soil.

However, limit your watering to once a week after the 2nd week. Use good judgment: Well-drained, sandy loam soil may require more frequent watering; Poorly drained, heavy clay soil will require less frequent watering. 1" of rain a week is enough that you wouldn't have to water.

Newly transplanted plants should not be allowed to dry out. However, many plants are lost because of over-watering. When you water, soak the soil well. Between waterings, the soil should be moist, not wet or dry. Mulched planting beds hold moisture for a longer period of time. Cultivated beds may lose moisture faster. Check for moisture before watering. Open the soil and check 5" below ground-level; if it's dry at that level, water again, etc.

2. **PRUNING** Did you prune the bare root plants according to instructions? It is very important to prune bare root plants right after planting. Don't be afraid to prune; it will make a big difference in the success of the planting. Look over all the bare root plants. If you think you might not have pruned enough, prune some more. Remember, thinning the plant will reduce the stress of transplanting. Pruning is an essential element in the success of your planting.

3. **CHECK PLANTING DEPTH** Are any plants planted too low or too high? Plants that might have sunk in the hole after watering could be in jeopardy. Check to make sure you have no exposed roots on your newly transplanted plants. Also, make sure the crown of the plant is above ground-level. Evergreens, especially low spreading types, can fail if the crown of the plant is too low. Now is the time to adjust those plants, simply by lifting the plant up to the proper level with a shovel and adjusting the soil around it.

4. Keep all plants free of grass and weed competition. This is done either by cultivating, or by using organic mulches or stone mulch with a weed barrier - not plastic. Ask your Representative about Typar Weed Barrier available from McKay.

5. Keep a crisp edge between the grass and the planting bed. This can be accomplished by either periodically removing encroaching grass or installing a quality edging such as is available through your local agent.

6. Staking a tree will prevent swaying in windy areas and possible damage from vandalism.

A stake using a looped strap of cloth or rubber hose can be used to steady the tree. Never tie the tree to the stake tightly. Be sure and check the tie during the growing season to be sure it isn't cutting into the tree. Remove stake after 1st year. Check with your agent if you have questions on this procedure.

7. Tree wrap is beneficial on young trees during the winter months. It should be removed in spring and replaced in late fall. This will protect from rodent damage or splitting from sun exposure.

8. The fertilizer packets available through McKay are a slow-release type and are safe for your plants. At any time you do fertilize your plantings, be sure to follow package directions. In the first year after planting Miracle Gro can be beneficial to aid in transplanting.

We thank you for buying from McKay. We have made every effort to grow and provide top quality plant material. Please follow the cultural practices outlined here to assure the full benefit and enjoyment from your McKay planting. Feel free to call your McKay representative if you need additional information.

McKay NURSERY COMPANY

