



# HANDLING AND PLANTING GUIDELINES

Water all plants as soon as they arrive. Continue watering daily to keep soil and roots moist until you plant. If you have any bare root bundles they should be kept in a shady, cool spot. Make sure roots are covered on bare root plants at all times.

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**Water all Your Plants  
IMMEDIATELY!**

# 1.0 BEFORE YOU PLANT

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

## 1. UPON ARRIVAL

Store plants in a shady, cool area with good ventilation. The north side of the house or a cool garage is perfect. Open groundcover boxes immediately.

## 2. WATER PLANTS IMMEDIATELY

Water daily until planting (keep soil and roots moist).

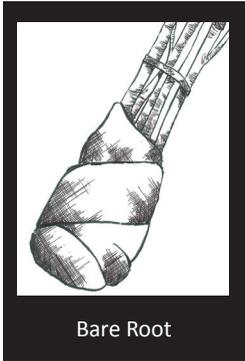
## 3. WHAT TYPE OF PLANT MATERIAL DID YOU ORDER?

Before you open, store or install your plant material, it's important to know which type you purchased. Follow the planting instructions based on the type purchased.

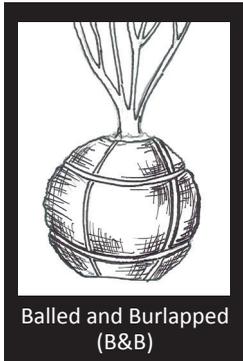


## 4. BEFORE YOU DIG CALL 811

Contact Diggers Hotline (811) to locate any utilities. Please note it takes up to 3 working days for utilities to be marked and that private utility lines, such as invisible fences will not be marked.



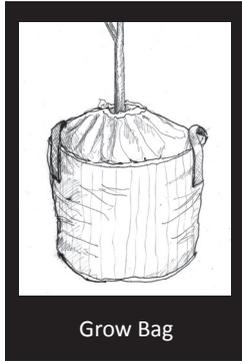
Bare Root



Balled and Burlapped (B&B)



Container Grown



Grow Bag

# 2.0 PREPARING THE SITE

**1. GATHER THE NECESSARY TOOLS & SUPPLIES**, including: hard rake, garden hose, pruning shears, pocketknife, pick, and gloves.

## 2. LOCATE THE SPOT WHERE THE PLANT WILL GO.

Remember to Call Diggers Hotline (811) before you dig!

- If you are using a design, transfer the planting beds from the design to the yard.
- Use a flexible garden hose or spray paint to lay out bed edges.
- Remove grass, weeds and debris from planting area.
- Locate and mark where the plants go in your planting beds.
- Prepare the soil. Contact your Local Design Pro with questions about your soil conditions.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

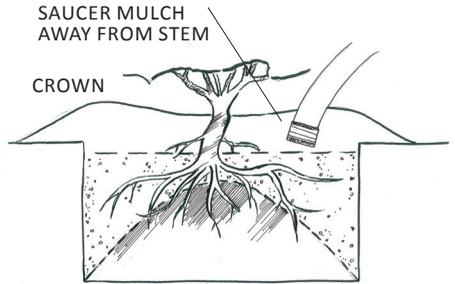
# 3.0 PLANTING BARE ROOT TREES & SHRUBS\*

\*See section 6.0 for planting rhubarb, grapes, raspberries, asparagus, and ground covers.

**1. OPENING THE PLANT MATERIAL.** Cut open the bundle (top and roots are tied) and separate all the plants. Soak roots in buckets of water until planted. Each plant type will be labeled separately for identification. **Do not expose the roots to sun. They should never dry out.** Keep roots covered. All bare-root plants must be trimmed when planted. See pruning.

## 2. PLANTING

- Dig a hole at least 6" wider and the same depth as the root mass. The crown or graft of the plant should be slightly higher than ground level where it was grown at the nursery.
- Trim off the broken roots and branches.
- Place fertilizer packets in hole (if purchased). Do not place other fertilizers in the planting hole. \*Use Recommended Fertilizer
- Spread the roots and fill halfway with soil, then water until soil settles completely saturating the soil and planting pit.
- Re-adjust plant and fill the hole with the rest of the soil.
- Back fill the balance of the soil and water well.
- See diagram for proper mulching.



**3. PRUNING** – Prune **ALL** bare root plants to reduce transplant shock and ensure success. Pruning should occur either before or as soon after planting as possible. All pruning should be done with a sharp pruning shears.

## PRUNING BARE ROOT ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

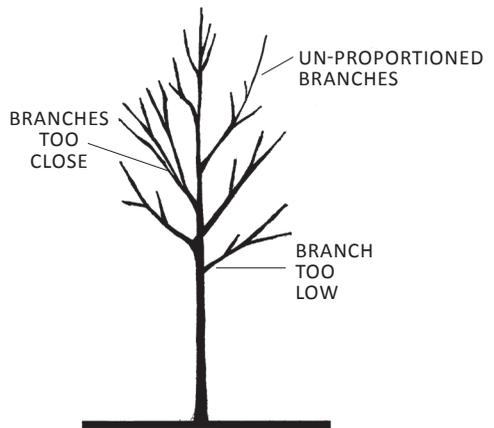
See illustration

- Thin  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  shrub by removing large branches.
- Top back some branches to improve general shape.
- Cut the shrub back to at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  its original size to promote new growth from the base.

## PRUNING BARE ROOT SHADE TREES, ORNAMENTAL TREES AND FRUIT TREES

See illustration

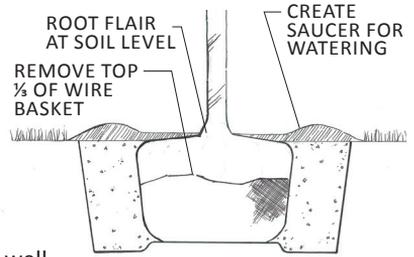
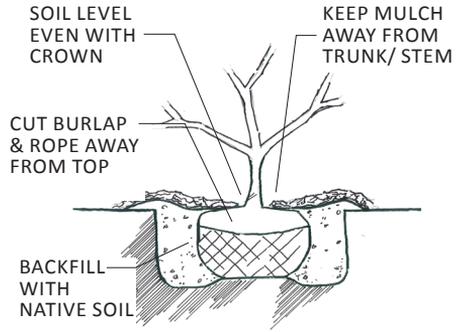
- Prune and remove any broken or damaged branches or roots from shipment.
- Remove branches that may be too low. This will also help promote faster top growth.
- Additional pruning to help in transplanting can be achieved by selectively removing branches that are too close or otherwise might not be proportionate with the rest of the tree.



# 4.0 PLANTING B&B TREES & SHRUBS

## 1. PLANTING

- Soak root ball very well.
- Dig a hole at least 6" wider and no deeper than the size of the ball on the plant.
- Rotate the plant to the proper position. Never lift or move trees by the tops.
- Place root ball into hole.
- For Shrubs: Adjust the plant height so the root crown is slightly higher than the ground.
- For Trees: Notice where the base of the trunk flairs out from the tree. This is called the root flair. This root flair should show when the tree is planted. If necessary, add soil under the ball so the root flair is exposed.
- Place fertilizer packets into the bottom of the hole (if purchased). *\*Use Recommended Fertilizer*
- Backfill ½ of the hole with soil and completely saturate the soil with water.
- Once the tree is straight and located as desired,
  - Cut and remove twine
  - Remove or bend back top ⅓ of metal basket.
  - Remove exposed burlap from top of ball
- Fill the hole to the top of the ball with soil, then soak well with water and let settle.
- The top of the root ball should be visible and slightly higher than the soil around it.
- Add mulch on top of soil making sure to not put mulch against the trunk or stems.

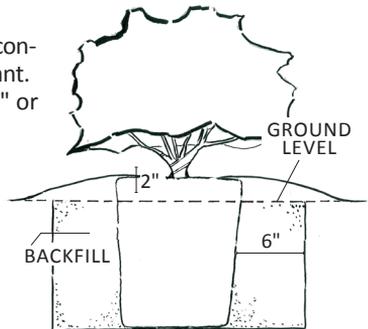


**2. PRUNING** – Although it is not essential for B&B plants to be pruned after planting, a light pruning for shape, to remove any broken branches from shipping, or to thin out a heavily branched plant will help in the transplanting process and in the appearance of your new planting.

# 5.0 PLANTING CONTAINER PLANTS, PLASTIC POTS & GROW BAGS

## 1. PLANTING

- Completely saturate all container plants by putting in a larger container of water until stops bubbling, remove. Now ready to plant.
- Dig a hole no deeper than the depth of the container and 6" or more wider on the sides.
- For Containers - Slide plant from pot by tapping on the bottom of the pot.
- For Grow Bags - Remove bag by using a utility knife to slit up the side and peel off the fabric exposing the soil and roots. Plant the root ball just like you would a container plant. No trimming of roots is necessary for grow bags.
- With shovel or knife trim bottom 2" off of the root ball for plants in plastic containers.
- Rotate the plant to the proper position. Never lift or move plants by the tops.
- Place the root ball in the hole.
- For Shrubs: Adjust the plant height so the root crown is slightly higher than the ground.
- For Trees: Notice where the base of the trunk flairs out from the tree. This is called the root flair. This root flair should show when the tree is planted. If necessary, add soil under the ball so the root flair is exposed.
- For Perennials: Slide out of pots. Many times perennials have many roots in the pots – Lay the plant on its side and cut off the bottom 2" of roots and soil for quicker establishment in the ground.
- Place fertilizer packets into the bottom of the hole (if purchased). *\*Use Recommended Fertilizer*
- Backfill the hole with soil, making sure the top of the root ball is visible and slightly higher than the soil around it.
- Firm the soil around the plant. Water well to settle soil around the root ball.



**2. PRUNING** – Although it is not essential for container plants to be pruned after planting, a light pruning to remove any broken branches during shipment and improve shape will help the looks of your new planting.

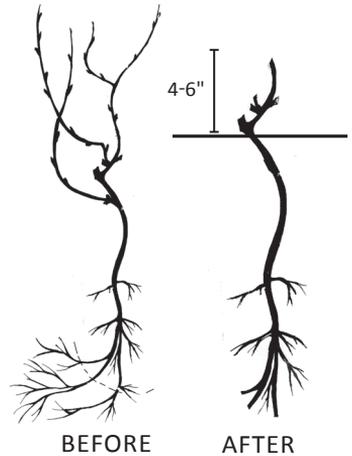
# 6.0 GROUND COVERS, FRUITS, ETC

**1. OPENING THE PLANT MATERIAL** – Cut open the bundle (top and roots are tied) and separate all the plants. Each plant type will be labeled separately for identification. **Do not expose the roots to sun. They should never dry out.** All bare-root plants must be trimmed when planted. See trimming.

## GRAPES

*(soak roots in water overnight before planting, if possible)*

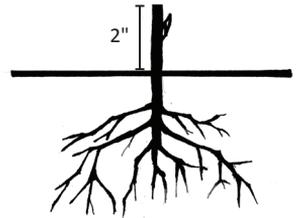
- Dig a broad and deep hole so roots fit comfortably.
- Place plant in hole so top of graft stem is at ground level.
- Backfill with soil spreading out roots and covering the top of the graft stem.
- Cut tops to 4-6" in length



## RASPBERRIES

*(soak roots in water overnight before planting, if possible)*

- Plant 2 to 3 feet apart in rows 3 to 5 feet apart in well-tilled weed-free soil.
- Cut tops to 2" above the ground after planting.



## RHUBARB

*(DO NOT soak roots prior to planting)*

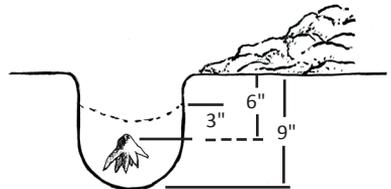
- Plant Rhubarb 2 feet apart in rows 3 feet apart in rich, well-drained garden soil with the root planted just under the soil. Water well to settle soil in and roots.
- Do not put fertilizer in hole when planting.
- Fertilize Rhubarb liberally with composted manure annually.



## ASPARAGUS

*(soak roots in water overnight before planting, if possible)*

- Prepare a bed of fine, loamy soil to which a liberal dressing of composted manure has been added and tilled in.
- Plant 1 foot apart in rows 4 feet apart.
- To plant, make a trench about 6" to 8" deep. Plant Asparagus and cover with 3" of soil. Water well.
- As plants start to grow, fill in trench with the additional soil until, by mid-summer, the ground is level.
- Do not cut any new shoots, but allow the "fernny" foliage to grow and store food for next year.



**PLANTING GROUNDCOVERS**, such as Pachysandra, Vinca

- Planting bed should consist of 6-8" of topsoil, well mixed with approximately 2" of peat moss.
- Plant groundcover – spacing as directed on landscape design (6" to 12" apart.)
- Water each plant thoroughly after planting, and remember small pots will dry out quickly in warmer weather – watch closely.

# 7.0 CARE AFTER PLANTING

## 1. WATERING

Plants typically take approximately 6 weeks to establish new roots in your soil. During this period, water plants as often as every 2-4 days at the start and at least a minimum of once per week. Beyond the 6 week establishment period, water once per week, unless rains occur. After the first season, plants should only be watered during extended periods without rain. How do you know if your plants need water? The easiest way to tell is to touch the soil around the roots. If it is moist, there is no need to water. If it is dry, give it a good soaking with the hose end (no nozzle) watering the soil only, not the leaves.

## 2. 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. 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.

## 3. GENERAL TIPS

Below are a few helpful maintenance tips. Need additional tips? Sign up today on [mckaynursery.com](http://mckaynursery.com) for our e-newsletter with monthly tips to ensure a successful landscape.

- Keep a crisp edge between the grass and the planting bed.
- Maintain 2-4" of shredded bark mulch in your planting beds.
- Stake trees in wind prone areas. Maintain stakes for the first growing season. 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. Check the tie during the growing season to be sure it isn't cutting into the tree.
- Use tree wrap on young trees during the winter months to protect from rodent damage or splitting from sun exposure. It should be removed in spring and replaced in late fall until the plants get older. Do not use black drain tile on the trunks.

**Consult with your local McKay Design Pro or call us at 800.236.4242 for all your landscape needs. Are you a do-it-yourselfer? McKay offers a variety of landscape and maintenance products delivered straight to your door, or sit back and relax and let us do the hard work. Our team of landscape service professionals can take on any job.**

**THANK YOU** for choosing McKay Nursery Company. We trust you will be enjoying your new landscape for years to come. We strive to provide you with top quality plant material. Please follow the cultural practices outlined here to assure the full benefit and enjoyment from your new planting.



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