

# Bare-Root Guide

## What is bare-root?

Bare-root is a convenient and cost-saving alternative to potted trees. Although they must be planted during their dormant season (late fall to early spring), they are much lighter in weight, and the roots are able to establish quicker in our native soil and can avoid possible pot-bound issues.

## Pre-Planting Care:

Plant as soon as you can, ideally the same day you get them - even in snow or frost as long as the ground is thawed enough to dig. If unable to plant immediately, keep temporarily in a cool, dark place like an unheated garage and keep roots moist, making sure they don't dry out. Roots can be placed in a bucket of water for up to 2 hours before planting to aid in water uptake.

## Planting:

- Dig a wide hole (as deep as the roots and at least twice as wide).
- Spread roots over a soil cone (mound some dirt at the bottom of the hole to spread out the roots over),
- Keep the crown (where roots meet the trunk) at or slightly above the soil line.
  - \* If the trunk has a conspicuous graft, it should be kept at least an inch above the soil surface.
- Back-fill and press down gently to fill air pockets.
- Water deeply.
- Apply mulch (keep mulch away from the trunk).
  - \* You may amend soil with some compost or soil conditioner but avoid fertilizer or strong soil amendments as bare roots are dormant and sensitive.

## After Planting:

Ensure the plant gets deep watering every other day or daily for the first 1-2 weeks. Long-term, supplementally water (every 7-10 days in dry spells) for at least two years, especially during summer months. Long and slow watering will encourage the roots to grow downward rather than along the surface. Eventually, your tree will become established and resilient in our natural climate!