

Planting Steps

- *****PLEASE plant your trees as soon as you get them home, or as soon as possible.** We have been storing them at 36 degrees to keep the trees in a dormant state. As they leave that temperature, the trees begin to leaf out and the roots need to be in the soil. IF for some reason you can not immediately plant them, consider sprinkling the roots so that they remain slightly moist, until the time you plant them.
- **Before planting:** soak tree roots in a tub or large trash can of water for one to two hours to keep its roots from drying while you dig. Do not soak more than six hours. DO NOT expose roots to freezing temperatures while planting.
- Dig the hole deep and wide enough so the root system has plenty of room. We recommend 30 inches in diameter and 12 to 18 inches in depth. Keep the best topsoil in a separate pile so you can put it near the roots (in the bottom of the hole), where it'll do the most good.
- Roots grow better in soil that's been loosened, so try to breakdown large clumps into a small smooth mixture. If your soil is poor it is helpful to add garden compost or peat moss (up to 1/3 concentration).
- Position the tree in the hole so the **root flare (top root) is at the existing soil grade.** The graft (bump where the tree is grafted to the rootstock) will then be roughly 2-6" above the soil level.
- Fill the hole, putting the topsoil back in first. You can avoid creating air pockets by working the soil carefully around the roots and tamping down (by hand) firmly. This is a very important step and best accomplished if one person holds the tree in place, another person carefully spreads the roots, and another person gently adds the soil mix. **DO NOT FERTILIZE TREE AT TIME OF PLANTING.**

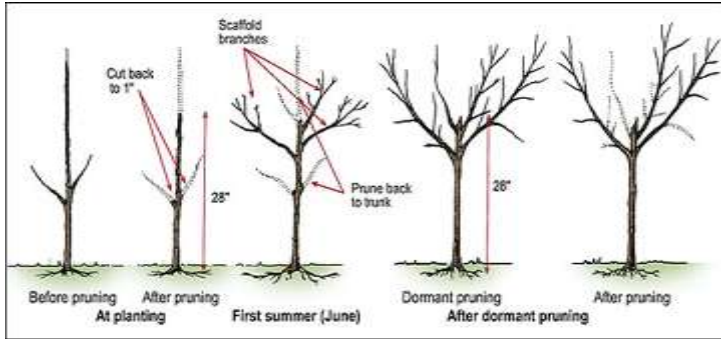
Post-Planting

- Water your new tree. A slow, deep, thorough soaking is best. This should amount to 3 – 5 gallons.
- We recommend a heavy mulching of wood chips (3-4") within the diameter of the 30 inches – but leaving a couple inches directly around the trunk to remain soil. The mulch ring should look like a doughnut not a volcano.
- In 3 or 4 days, repeat the watering process. Then only water once a week, unless we have rain. Always check your soil before watering; if the soil is moist 2" down you do not need to water.
- As the tree grows, remove weeds and grass within the perimeter of the planting circle, the mulched area should also be expanded.
- In November install the tree wrap (included) around the trunk (base) of the tree to protect the tree from sunscald and rodent damage. Remove the tree wrap once the tree has broken dormancy in the spring. Re-use tree wrap next November.
- Fertilize your tree with a top-dressing of compost in the fall or the following spring with Composted Chicken Manure at the rate of 1lb/1" diameter of the trunk.

Pruning



Most fruit trees utilize a type of **central leader system**. Peach is an exception. This means that there should be one primary trunk versus multiple.



Peaches should be pruned to an 'open vase' shape, to allow for airflow and better penetration of sunlight.

Pruning should occur at the time of planting, and the following Feb/March.

One final point: Please be sure to remove the plastic name tag from your tree. As the tree grows, this small piece of plastic can choke off its circulation, damaging or killing the tree. We hope you will use the metal tag that we have provided to help you remember the specific type of tree, as well as the specific type of rootstock on your grafted tree.

Enjoy your tree and consider including your children and/or grandchildren in the planting process. We want to encourage our younger generation in the awareness and appreciation of where food really comes from..... ☺

The Fine Print: All of these planting tips are to insure that your tree is happy and healthy and provides years of fruit production. If your tree does not break dormancy or dies the first growing season through no fault of your own* we will replace it free of charge, but you should notify us as soon as possible.

*Does not include over-watering, under-watering, mechanical damage, animal damage, or herbicide damage

