

Bare Root Deciduous Trees

Transporting

- When transporting trees, keep bare roots moist by wrapping them in wet burlap and a tarp
- Trees should be planted immediately or heeled in to keep roots from drying out

Planting Site

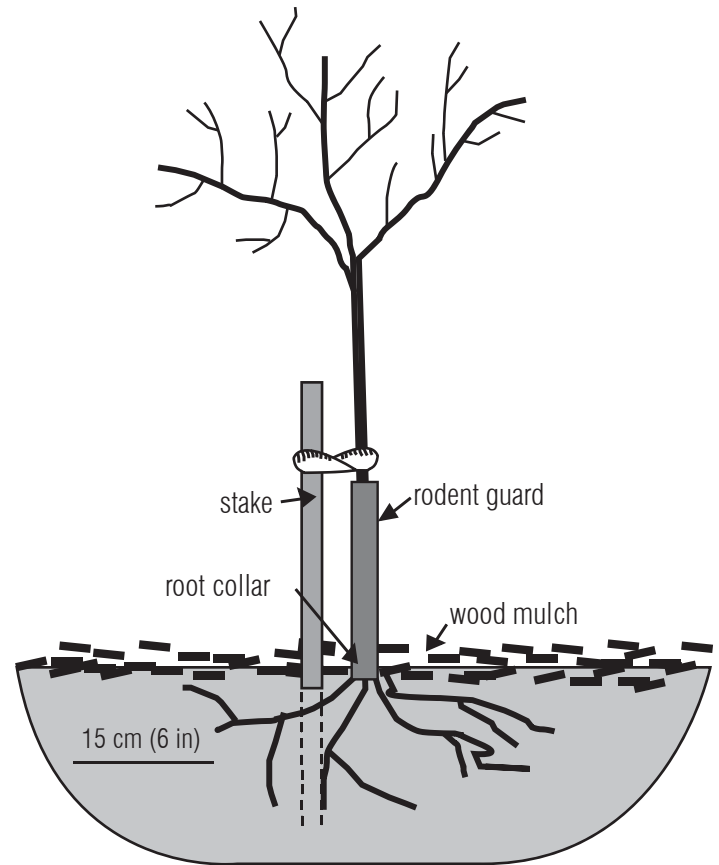
- Clear any debris (stumps, rocks, etc.) from planting site
- Avoid planting in wet depressions
- If you are unsure of buried utilities, call before you dig – Ontario One call 1-800-400-2255 or www.on1call.com
- Where NOT to plant:
 - Under utility wires (plant at least 5 m/16 ft away)
 - Within a road allowance
 - Over septic system
 - Under crown of a live tree
 - Close to buildings
 - Near field tiles or drain outlets
 - Follow municipal setbacks from drains

Planting

- Keep tree roots moist and protected until the hole is prepared
- Dig planting hole 30 cm (12 in) wider than the diameter of the root system
- Place tree in hole and make sure the roots fit without bending or breaking (do not prune roots)
- Check for depth – root collar should be even with ground (root collar is slight change in colour and/or swelling where the stem meets the root ball)
- Hammer in the stake before back filling with soil to avoid damaging the roots
- Ensure tree is vertical
- Alternately backfill hole with compost/topsoil and tamp down to eliminate air pockets

Staking

- In windy locations, place wooden stake 15-20 cm (6-8 in) from stem on the prevailing wind side of the tree (do this before back filling)
- Secure tree to stake at 1/3 the height of the tree using a plastic tree tie or burlap in a figure eight pattern
- Leave the tie slightly loose to allow natural movement which encourages growth
- Remove stake in one to two years



Rodent Protection

- Place rodent guard around stem to protect it from mice and rabbits during winter months

Mulching & Weed Control

- Mulch with composted hardwood chips to a depth of 5-10 cm (2-4 in) to reduce weed competition, retain moisture and reduce fluctuations in soil temperature
- Spread the mulch in a circle around the tree, keeping it away from the trunk to avoid stem rot
- Do not use string grass/weed trimmers around any trees, regardless of size

Crown Pruning

- Carefully prune any dead, broken or damaged branches

Watering

- Ensure trees are thoroughly watered at planting
- In times of drought, water thoroughly once a week