

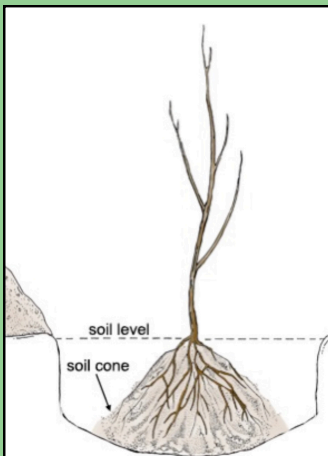
HOW TO PLANT YOUR “BARE ROOT” TRANSPLANT

BEFORE PLANTING

- Soak your plant well for at least an hour before planting.
- Don't plant in the heat of the day or while there is direct sun to scorch your transplant.

DIG A HOLE

- Dig a little deeper than the plant's roots seem to be and at least 2x wider than you think they'll spread.
- If you plan to add any compost or fresh soil, mix this thoroughly with the soil you have removed.
- Do **not** add fertilizer now, as it can burn if it comes into contact with the roots.
- Return some soil to create a mound as high as the natural soil level where you plan to place the plant. Water this very lightly to see if it settles, then add more soil if needed to reach that natural soil level.



SET YOUR PLANT

- Set your plant on the mound so its crown (where stem meets roots) is just at or above soil level. If the crown is planted too deep, it may rot. You can use a yardstick laid across the hole if you are having trouble knowing where the ground level is.
- Spread the roots all around the mound so they can support the plant as they grow and find all available nutrition.

REFILL

- Fill the hole with remaining soil, tamping only very lightly. Make sure the plant's crown remains at the soil line.
- Stake your plant if needed, taking care not to damage the stem by wrapping it too tightly.

WATER

- Water lightly, pouring all around the plant rather than on the plant itself.
- Water daily during the cooler morning or evening hours for one week, then gradually decrease to every other day and then less. Your plant might initially look a little 'wilty' during the heat of the day, but should perk up as the heat subsides. If it wilts in the morning or evening hours, it may need more water.



HOW TO PREPARE A BARE ROOT TRANSPLANT

“BARE ROOT” just means a plant without soil. All but the most delicate plants will generally do well like this if you handle them gently, keep them moist, and don't let them sit for long periods of time.

By sharing your plant “bare root,” you are decreasing the chances of sharing microscopic pests (like the eggs of the invasive Asian earthworm) and diseases that may linger in the soil. Bare root does not prevent the spread of other diseases/viruses/pests. Your best defense generally is to examine plants carefully and discard any that are questionable.



BEFORE DIGGING

- Water plants lightly the night before (this will decrease root stress and allow you to lift it with less damage).
- Dig out your plant on a cloudy day or when it's not in direct sun.
- Be prepared to shade the roots so they don't immediately dry out by covering them lightly or placing in water.

WHEN YOU'VE DUG

- Gently knock off as much soil as you can.
- Wash roots clean by gently but thoroughly swishing in plain lukewarm water (not ice cold from the faucet!).
- "TRIPLE WASH" THEM TO GET THE MOST PROTECTION!



WHY TRIPLE WASH?

- If you've ever tried to wash a greasy plastic container, you know that one wash is not always enough. "Triple wash" is a standard for cleaning hazardous substances. It assumes that after three washings, you are likely to have removed all nasty residues.
- With plants, a triple swish in three separate buckets will most likely remove not only dirt clods and fine particles, but also microscopic fungus, pests, and egg casings that you may not be able to see with the naked eye.
- The easiest way to do this is to set up three water-filled containers and give the plant roots a good swish in each of them. If you are washing several plants from the same area, you can reuse the water as long as you wash in the same order. As you switch areas, make sure to clean out your containers and put in fresh water so you are not contaminating new plants.
- Think about where you dispose of your wash water so you are not contaminating new areas!

TO STORE AND TRANSPORT

- Roots will need to remain moist! You can just put them in enough water to cover. Good containers might be plastic or paper milk containers (easily cut down to size), quart size or smaller yogurt cups, even plastic baggies or recycled newspaper sleeves. Just put in enough water to cover all the roots.
- Adding some crumpled newspaper or paper towel around the roots to protect and provide shade is a good idea too.
- More tuberous roots (iris or daylily) might prefer a good wrapping with newspaper and then just enough water in the container to keep the package moist. But they will survive in plain water as well.
- Don't wrap your roots tightly in plastic as they still need to breathe. Keep any plastic covering loose.
- Be sure to keep plants out of the direct sun after they are dug!
- Plants will survive for a week or more without major problems, but keep in mind that "fresher is better" when sharing bare root transplants.