

Bare Root Planting Guide

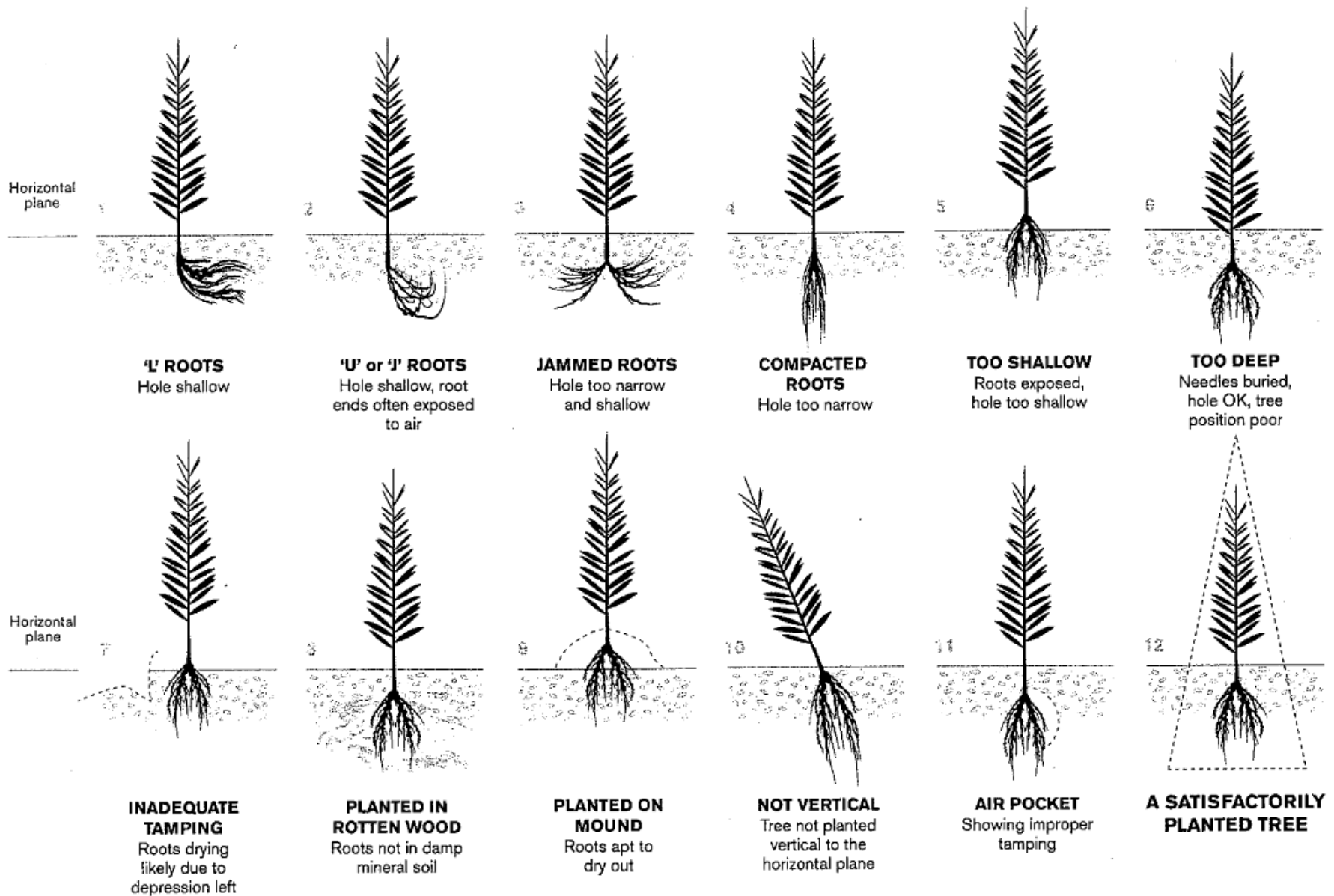


Fig. 40. Illustrates mistakes to be avoided when planting bare root seedlings. (Adapted from US Forest Service).

To plant bare-root trees and perennials, ensure the roots are properly hydrated, dig a wide and shallow hole, spread the roots out, and backfill with soil, avoiding excessive amendments.

As you can see on the guide on the other side of this sheet, (see illustrations) the guide shows the mistakes to be avoided when planting bare root seedlings:

1. Avoid “L” roots, this happens when the hole is too shallow causing the roots to make a L shape.
2. Avoid “U” or “J” roots, this happens when the hole is too shallow, and root ends are often exposed to air.
3. Jammed roots occur when the hole is too narrow and shallow.
4. Compacted roots happen when the hole is too narrow.
5. When the hole is dug too shallow, the roots are exposed.
6. When the hole is dug too deep, the tree’s position is poor, causing needles to be buried.
7. Inadequate tamping occurs when roots become dry, most likely due to depression left.
8. When the roots are not in damp mineral soil, this occurs when a tree is planted in rotten wood.
9. When a tree is planted on a mound, roots tend to dry out.
10. When a tree is not planted vertically to the horizontal plane, it’s considered not vertical.
11. Air pockets happen when improper tamping has occurred.
12. A satisfactorily planted tree is exactly how a tree should be planted.

The DEC encourages all New Yorkers to record trees they plant via tree tracker, visit the link below to record your tree planting. Every tree counts!

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/climate-change/25-million-trees>