



Fruit Tree Planting Instructions

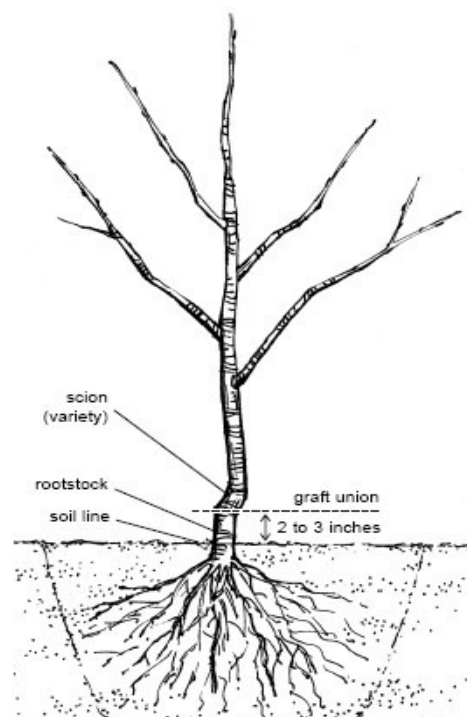


What you will need

- Shovel or spade for digging.
- Either a permanent tree post or a temporary tree post.
- A hammer big enough to install the post.
- Tree ties to connect the stake to the tree.
- Bucket/bin to soak the tree roots in water.

Quick advice on planting fruit trees for those in a hurry....

- Planting fruit trees is a 2-person job. One to hold the tree in place while the other is backfilling the hole.
- **DON'T** dig holes in advance, they will fill with water and you can't plant a tree in a water logged hole. Planting is best on a dry day.
- Most new trees need a stake or post to support them while they get established. Place the stake in the hole and attach with a loose rubber tie.
- **DO NOT** add compost or fertilizer to the planting hole.
- **DO** apply a bucket of water after planting.
- **DO** apply mulch around the base of the tree after planting but make sure to keep it at least 2-3 inches away from the trunk of the tree.
- You must protect your trees from the animals immediately; otherwise, they will be eaten, usually the night after planting them.
- **NEVER** keep fruit trees indoors. If the weather is too cold to plant, keep them in an unheated garage until you plant them.



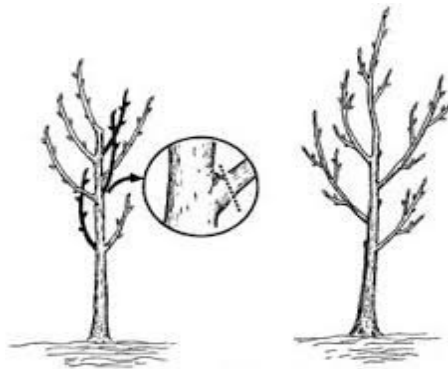
Additional instructions on the back

Additional Planting Instructions

- Placement in your yard is critical. Fruit trees require at least 6-8 hours of direct sunlight, so consider this when choosing your planting location. You need to plant the 2 trees within 50 feet of each other for cross pollination by insects and wind.
- The fruit trees are semi-dwarf and will grow to a height of 12-15 feet. They should be spaced 16-18 feet apart and will bear fruit in 4-6 years; however, if the tree bears fruit sooner, you should remove it to allow the tree to use all its energy to become established and stronger in order to hold the fruit.
- Soak the roots in a bucket of water for 2-3 hours just prior to planting or if they are very dry, 8-12 hours.
- Dig the hole the day of planting and twice the size of the roots. Break up the sides of the hole to allow roots to grow easily.
- Create a cone in the center of the hole. Spread the roots out and place over the cone to help anchor the trunk. Make sure the graft union is facing north to avoid sun scald.
- Back fill with soil half way, water and tamp (don't compact the soil) to remove air pockets. Repeat with remaining soil. Make sure to keep the roots straight while filling. If they curl, they could choke the tree and kill it. Plant so that the graft union (the bump where the fruit tree is attached to the rootstock) is above the soil line by 2-3 inches. You will want to finish the planting hole with a small moat to allow for better water containment and absorption. Never backfill a planting hole with mulch. However, you can add mulch on top once you're finished planting to allow for moisture retention and weed suppression. Make sure to keep the mulch 2-3 inches away from the trunk to prevent bacteria, fungi, root girdling and actual composting of the tree's bark.
- Water the tree once a week until fall and more if it's very dry.
- **DO NOT** fertilize the hole or the tree when planting because it will keep the roots comfortable and it will prevent them from growing out of the planting hole. When you do fertilize the tree you only need nitrogen, or you can use a product that contains NPK.
- Remove nearby dandelions and other broadleaf weed flowers before the tree blossoms so bees won't be distracted from your orchard. Try to keep weeds away for the first year to allow the tree to establish without competition.
- **DO NOT** apply any pesticides during bloom time to avoid killing your pollinators. Bees are very susceptible to any pesticide.
- You can spray trees with dormant oil to smother mites and insect eggs on a warm day in February. Just make sure to follow instructions for your protection.
- Crabapple trees are excellent pollinators for apple and pear trees. They are also a beautiful tree that provides a food source that attracts the bees and birds for pollinating your trees.



Staking the tree



Simple Initial Pruning



Protecting the tree