

# Bare Root Planting Guidelines

- Plant immediately or keep the root system moist until planting by using moist peat, bark or sand. Plants can be held for a few weeks as long as the roots are kept moist.
- Dig a hole wide enough for the root system to fit in comfortably with room to spare. The hole should only be the depth needed to end up with the top of the root system slightly below ground level. When dealing with grafted trees keep the graft an inch or two above the ground level.
- Use about half of the excavated soil to mix with an equal amount of peat moss, brewers compost or some other type of organic matter. A loose, rich soil will make the difference in the long run.
- We recommend using soil moist granules to dip the root system into in order to keep the plant more evenly moist throughout its establishment.
- Spread the roots out evenly into the volume of the hole and then backfill with loosened and preferably well amended soil. Jiggle the plant lightly as you backfill in order to get the soil in among all the roots.
- Firm down lightly to minimize air pockets and hold the plant upright.
- Give extra attention to watering during the first 6 weeks as conditions dictate.
- Fertilizing within the first month after planting can really help with establishment and vigor.

