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BARE ROOT PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

CARE OF PLANTS PRIOR TO PLANTING

Bare root plants should be planted within 24 hours of purchase for best results. Place plants in a cool place, keeping bundle intact until ready to plant. Open bundle only when hole is dug and do not allow roots to dry out in the planting process. Don't use the straw packing material in planting.

PLANTING

1. Dig hole **twice the diameter** of the spread-out roots and about the same depth as the roots. (Measuring from top of roots to lower root tips.) Do not dig the hole too deep to avoid excess settling. Avoid crowding the roots by spreading them out in the hole. If roots appear very long as on some shrubs, spread them laterally rather than making the hole deeper.
2. Plants should be planted at the point on the stems where the roots begin. Do not plant deeper "up the stem". **AVOID PLANTING TOO DEEP!**
3. Budded trees (trees with a "knob" on the trunk just above the roots) should be planted with the bud union or "knob" just above the soil line. **AVOID PLANTING TOO DEEP!**
4. Arrange roots in hole so they are not crowded. Backfill to ground level with a mixture of 1/3 organic matter and 2/3 original soil from hole. Firm soil around plant without "stamping" it. This can cause root damage.
5. If plant is not in a lawn area or place that receives regular sprinkler watering, use extra soil to build a "reservoir" around the edge of the planting hole. Avoid reservoirs in lawn areas as plants will get too wet and drown.
6. Water thoroughly from the top with a Ferti-Lome Root Stimulator and water mixture. Add more backfill as needed.

CARE:

1. Water lightly each day by spraying down the branches for the first two to three weeks, then as needed. Check soil manually for moisture by digging down about 6" at the edge of the roots with a small trowel. If soil feels moist, no soil watering is needed. You will soon get an idea about how often to water. Keep soil moist but never soggy.
2. **Tree Wrap.** Young trees will need to be wrapped in the winter with crepe tree wrap until they get adult bark (several years). This prevents winter sunscald and splitting. Wrap at Thanksgiving and unwrap at Easter. **Water twice per month in the winter on warmer days (preferably 50° F or above).**