

Bare Root Deciduous Trees

Planting Guide



Essex Region Conservation
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Transporting

- When transporting trees, keep bare roots moist by wrapping them in wet burlap and a tarp.
- Trees should be planted immediately or heeled in to keep roots from drying out.

Planting Site

- Clear any debris (stumps, rocks, etc.) from planting site.
- Avoid planting in wet depressions.
- If you are unsure of buried utilities, call before you dig – Ontario One call 1-800-400-2255 or www.on1call.com.

Where NOT to plant:

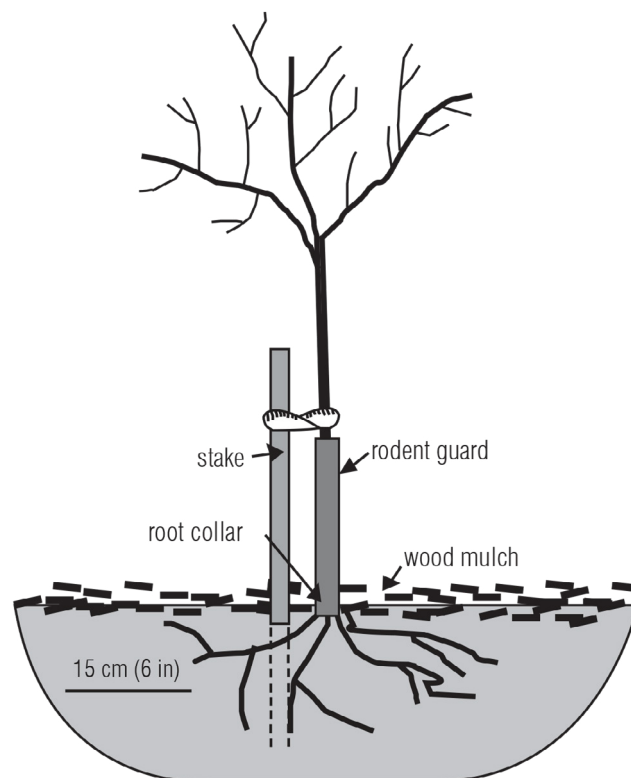
- Under utility wires (plant at least 5 m/16 ft away).
- Within a road allowance.
- Over septic system.
- Under crown of a live tree.
- Close to buildings.
- Near field tiles or drain outlets.
- Follow municipal setbacks from drains.

Planting

- Keep tree roots moist and protected until the hole is prepared.
- Dig planting hole 30 cm (12 in) wider than the diameter of the root system.
- Place tree in hole and make sure the roots fit without bending or breaking (do not prune roots).
- Check for depth - root collar should be even with ground (root collar is slight change in colour and/or swelling where the stem meets the root ball).
- Hammer in the stake before back filling with soil to avoid damaging the roots.
- Ensure tree is vertical.
- Alternately backfill hole with compost/topsoil and tamp down to eliminate air pockets.

Staking

- In windy locations, place wooden stake 15-20 cm (6-8 in) from stem on the prevailing wind side of the tree (do this before back filling).
- Secure tree to stake at 1/3 the height of the tree using a plastic tree tie or burlap in a figure eight pattern.



- Leave the tie slightly loose to allow natural movement which encourages growth.
- Remove stake in one to two years.

Rodent Protection

- Place rodent guard around trunk to protect it from mice and rabbits during winter months.

Mulching & Weed Control

- Mulch with composted hardwood chips to a depth of 5-10 cm (2-4 in) to reduce weed competition, retain moisture and reduce fluctuations in soil temperature.
- Spread the mulch in a circle around the tree, keeping it away from the trunk to avoid stem rot.
- Do not use string grass/weed trimmers around any trees, regardless of size.

Crown Pruning

- Carefully prune any dead, broken or damaged branches.

Watering

- Ensure trees are thoroughly watered at planting.
- In times of drought, water thoroughly once a week.

For more information:

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