

Planting Instruction Checklist

- ____ 1) Do not let the trees freeze. Put them in a cool place out of the sun.
- ____ 2) Never let the tree roots dry out! If you are going to plant the same day or next, just take the trees and put into a trash can full of water or a pond. **Trees cannot soak for more than 24 hours.** They will drown!
- ____ 3) It is also very appropriate to heel in your trees. Make sure that the roots are thoroughly covered in soil or wet sawdust.
- ____ 4) Dig a hole the size of a bushel basket. This would be about 18 inches deep by 18 inches in diameter. If you have a nice loamy soil then just use the same soil. If you have a poor soil mix 50/50 with either potting soil or well rotted manure.
- ____ 5) It is better to trim the roots to fit the hole rather than twisting the roots to fit the hole.
- ____ 6) Place the tree in the hole. The graft union should be 3-5 inches above the true soil line. There are exceptions to this rule. It is recommended to bury the graft union of the Peach and Cherry by about an inch.
- ____ 7) Back fill with your soil mix half way. Do not add raw manure or raw fertilizers to soil mixture. Tamp the soil with your foot. Pour in 1-2 gallons of water. Let the water percolate. Tamp again with the heel of your foot. It is very important to tamp thoroughly. This gets rid of air pockets. Back fill the rest of the way with the soil. Water again. Tamp again. Come back the next day after it has all settled and water and tamp yet again. Of all the watering in the trees life this is the most important one!
- ____ 8) If you are going to stake your tree (recommended for semidwarf apple) then this is the time to do it. A good solid metal T stake 8ft-10ft tall with work. Make sure to pound it well into the ground. You may want to pound it in next to the tree before backfilling. Peaches, Cherries and Pears don't require staking.

Now your trees are planted. What next? **Topping your trees.** This can be a painful process. Topping promotes strong healthy growth and gives you a well shaped tree. If you don't top the trees, the chances of surviving transplant are decreased.

Apples and Pears:

- 1) Feathered trees. If a tree has branches, trim the central leader back half way and all side branches back half way. This is minimum pruning.
- 2) Whips or trees with one or two branches. Trim all branches back to $\frac{1}{4}$ in nubs. Cut central leader to 38 inches from graft union.

Peaches and Tart Cherries:

Prune all the branches back to 2 inch nub and top the tree at 30 inches above the graft union.

Fertilizer and Water:

Trees should be watered 1-2 times a week throughout the season. 3-4 gallons of water. We do recommend fertilizer a month after planting. 4 oz of 10-10-10 scattered around the base of the tree and watered in.

Keep the weeds away.....Whatever it takes.....Landscape fabric, old magazines, bark mulch. We do not recommend herbicides in the establishment year.