

Planting Bareroot Trees

All fruits, nuts, and berries will benefit from mound or raised bed planting. Mound planting is especially helpful in improving growth and reducing root and crown rots semi-dwarf apple rootstocks, walnut, fig, cherry, apricot, almond, peach and all berries.

Never plant into saturated wet soil. One solution is to work the ground up in the fall and cover with black plastic to keep it drier the trees can then be planted anytime. Do not allow roots of barefoot trees to dry out for even a few seconds. Keep them in moist, organic matter or dig a shallow trench and bury the roots temporarily before planting.

Plant high, keeping the crown area above the original soil line. the most fragile part of the tree is this transitional section where the trunk develops into roots (crown). This area should be kept as dry as possible, especially in the spring when the tree is leafing out. Raised planting effectively prevents puddling near the trunk and crown area.

Mound Planting Step-By-Step

1. Prepare the soil by working up an area about 15 ft.2. Dig just deep enough to remove any compacted layers. 10-20% well composted manure or organic matter can be added at this stage. Never add fertilizers until the tree is growing well.
2. Clip off broken, twisted or girdling roots. Do not plant trees rotted roots or warty growths on the roots (crown gall).
3. Place the tree on top of the ground and shovel soil from the surrounding area around the roots forming a mound. The ditch created can be used to water the tree next spring & summer and will aid in winter drainage.
4. Head the tree at 24 inches to encourage low branching and to balance the small root system.
5. Cut back any lower lateral branches to 2 buds.
6. Paint the entire tree with interior white latex paint to reduce sunburn and prevent pacific flathead borer attack.

Mario Moratorio