

# Keeping Your Bareroot Plants Happy & Healthy

Bareroots are young trees, shrubs or perennials sold **without soil around their roots**. They are hardy and self-sustaining, **but not at first!** Given the right conditions and a little TLC, they will take root and reward your patience with **healthy growth in the seasons to come**.

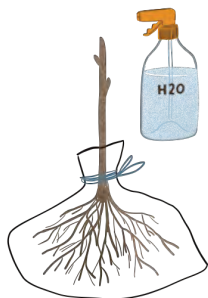
**Herbaceous bareroots and rhizomes:** ferns, wildflowers and grasses (pictured here)



**Woody bareroots:** native trees like Douglas fir (pictured here), Pacific ninebark, snowberry shrub and vine maple



**Live stakes:** best suited for willows (pictured here) and red osier dogwood, used for streambank restoration and erosion control



## After you get your bareroots:

Plant your seedlings as soon as possible. If they must be stored, put them in a cool, dry place.

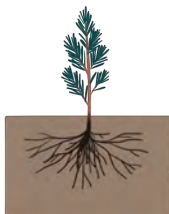
Keep roots moist in a sealed bag or container until right before planting them.

## Ideal planting conditions:

Plant on a cloudy, cool or humid day.

Loosen soil before planting.

Roots grow down and out. Give them space.



## Know before you plant:



**Timing and location.** Plant between late fall and early spring. Choose a spot that doesn't get too much direct sunlight and isn't exposed to frost or wind.

**Depth and spacing.** Make sure the hole is deep enough so the plant's root flare is at ground level. Spread roots so they aren't twisted and bunched. Don't overcrowd your planting area.

**Soil conditions.** Use well-draining soil and avoid areas with standing water or overly dry conditions.

**Watering.** Keep soil consistently moist during the plant's first season — neither too dry nor waterlogged.

## Happy Plant Care

**Manage weeds.** Pull weeds, apply mulch or install weed barriers to support growth.

**Monitor for disease.** Check for wilting, spots or abnormal growth.

**Protect from pests and wildlife.** Use ventilated tree tubes and mesh fencing or screens.

**Prune.** Remove only damaged or crossing branches in the first year, then shape the plant in future seasons.

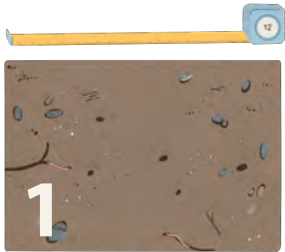
**Keep plants where they are.** Bareroots thrive when planted directly in their forever home.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

# 8 Simple Steps for Planting Your Bareroots

Step-by-step  
planting video



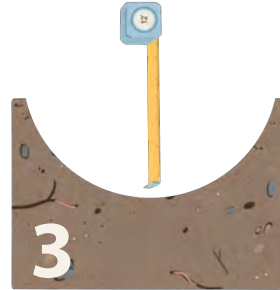
## 1 Clear Your Planting Area

Mark a 2-3 foot circle. Clear vegetation, using a mower or weed whacker if needed.



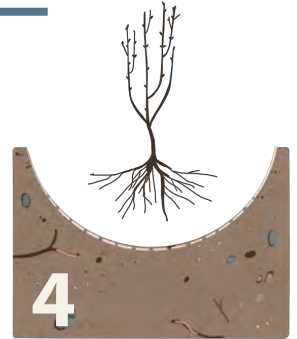
## 2 Dig the Hole

Make it 2-3 times wider than the plant's roots and as deep as its longest root.



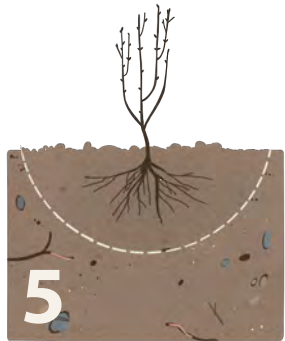
## 3 Check the Depth

The root flare should be at ground level, with the roots just reaching the bottom.



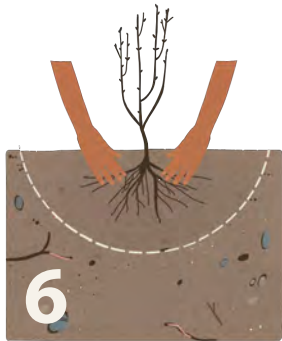
## 4 Place the Plant

Spread roots naturally. Don't twist or bunch them.



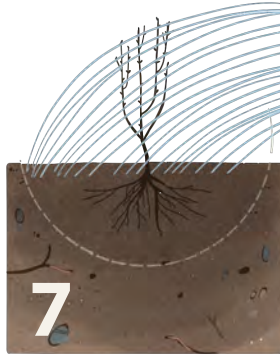
## 5 Backfill the Hole

Refill with loose soil, gently pressing to remove air pockets. Keep the root flare exposed.



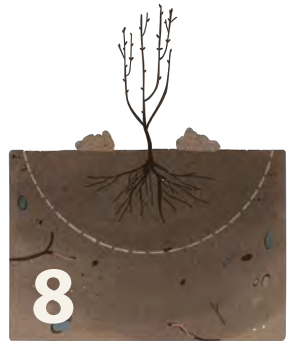
## 6 Pack the Soil

Compact it lightly so as not to crush the roots.



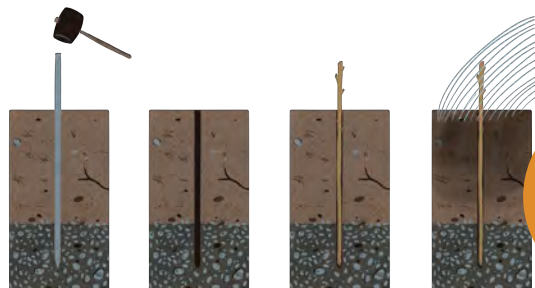
## 7 Water Thoroughly

This will settle the soil and eliminate air pockets.



## 8 Mulch the Base

Add a 2-3 inch ring of mulch around the plant.



When planting live stakes, make sure buds are facing up.

## Live Stakes

Live stakes require deeper, narrower holes than seedlings with roots. Create a pilot hole with a ground probe or with rebar and a mallet. The hole should be deep enough so at least half the stake is in the ground and it reaches the water table. Make sure buds are facing up as you plant. Gently press the soil to ensure soil contact. Fill the hole and water, mulch and monitor.

