

Planting Bare Root Hedging & Whips

If you can't plant your trees straight away, they can be kept for a short period in their original packaging in a cool, dark place. The sacks should be stored upright and loosely packed to ensure the roots are not damaged within. Do not open them or the roots will dry out. If there is not a suitable place to store them for this period, or if it will be slightly longer before they can be planted then it is best to heel them in. Take the plants out of the sacks and place them in a shallow trench with the roots covered loosely by soil. If bundles are tied, don't untie them at this stage. Use fine soil, if possible, to cover the roots so it trickles in between to protect them. If the weather is dry then water the trench to keep the soil moist.

- Don't soak or dip the roots into water before you plant (unless you are using a mycorrhizal or other root dip).
- Keep the roots of bare root plants moist and covered at all times. Keep the plants in their packaging, or in the shallow trench, until the moment you are ready for planting.
- Ideally, don't dig holes or trenches until the day of planting as they could fill with water
- Water the tree immediately after planting, ideally with a bucketful per tree.
- Ensure the holes, or notches, are big enough to take the roots so no roots are bent or broken.
- A bare root plant should be planted to the same depth from which it came – seen by the soil mark on the root collar.
- Tread the soil in around the plant after planting to firmly secure the plant and anchor the roots. You can check the firmness by pulling gently on the stem. If the plant loosens, it is not planted firmly enough. All plants should be checked again within the first month of planting and firmed in again if necessary.



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