

# PLANT YOUR TREES

## WHEN THE WEATHER IS SUITABLE

**IF it is too early to plant them. Here are some choices:**

### HEEL THEM IN

*Heeling-in* is a technique used to store bare-root trees temporarily until it is a suitable time to be planted. It's best to select a shadier spot to prevent your bare root trees from drying out.

Start by digging a trench large enough to accommodate the roots of the tree, then placing the roots in the trench so the tree is almost laying on the ground, at about a 90-degree angle to the ground.

Be sure the roots are protected from the cold and wind during the entire process by keeping them in their bags until you place them in the trench and cover the roots with soil.

Fill in the trench with soil so the **roots are entirely covered** and add extra heaps of soil so when it settles the roots are not exposed. Monitor the soil level over the next few weeks.

### COLD STORAGE

It is vital to maintain the right temperature to keep your plants dormant until time to plant them. The temperature in the area should be between 35-45°F. If it goes above this temperature the plants may break dormancy and leaf out prematurely, and if it goes below the temperature the roots could freeze.

- A garage that is attached to your house, but not heated.
- Store in a cool, dark location, avoiding extreme temperatures.

1. Keep them in the bags and cardboard box (if possible) they were shipped to you in.
2. Open the bags, moisten the roots. (Do NOT soak the roots)
3. Reclose the bags so air does not seep in to dry them out.
4. Check periodically that the roots are moist, and the room temperature is within the range.

If you are concerned about the temperature fluctuating you can open the bag and add **moistened** sawdust, peat moss, or a soilless potting mix. Shake it to the bottom of the bag to ensure all the roots are covered. Do not soak them or the roots will mold.

### WHEN TO PLANT

*How to know when it is safe to plant your trees:*

- 1 Air Temperature: The air temperature should range above 40°F (4°C) to support healthy root development. Watch the local weather forecasts.
- 2 Frost Risk: Keep an eye on the last expected frost date in your region, often found in local gardening resources or online. Planting before this date can expose your plants to the risk of frost damage.
4. Soil Moisture: Ensure that the soil is not excessively wet. Planting in soggy conditions can lead to root rot and other problems.

*Ernie and Linda*