

BARE ROOT TREE PLANTING GUIDE

'Winter is the ideal time to buy Fleming's bare rooted trees! Buying and planting dormant, bare root trees during winter means that they have late winter and early spring to start establishing in your garden.' – Wes Fleming, third generation nurseryman.



1 After we deliver the trees bare rooted, garden centres temporarily cover the roots with moist, loose soil. Being dormant the trees are very hardy. Garden centre staff can explain the benefits of buying and planting bare rooted trees. Before you plant the tree, we recommend that you trim and prune out any broken roots, as clean cuts heal faster than ragged edges. Don't worry, dormant trees are not easily damaged.



2 Plant in well prepared and well drained soil keeping the bud-union (elbow) above soil level (except for lilacs). Don't plant the tree too deep. Do not dig into clay, rather build up the site with top soil. Avoid adding fertiliser to the planting hole as this can 'burn' the roots.



3 Firmly pack the soil in around the roots. Make a small depression or well around the tree to direct water to the root zone. Spread a handful of complete fertiliser around the tree, then add the water to get rid of air pockets and disperse the fertiliser.



4 Finally, prune the branches according to the instructions on the label. Cut to an outward facing bud. This is the first step to creating a well shaped tree. Pruning the tree helps restore the balance between the top of the tree and the root system, a proportion of which is lost when the tree is 'dug' in the nursery.

5

Water the tree once or twice a week until December. Using a bucket is a good way of making sure an adequate quantity of water is applied. Make sure the water penetrates to the root zone. Mulch is beneficial, but do not mulch right up to the trunk, as mulch can divert water from the root zone.

Acer japonicum 'Vitifolium'
Pirianda Garden, Victoria

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