

Planting Bare Root Roses

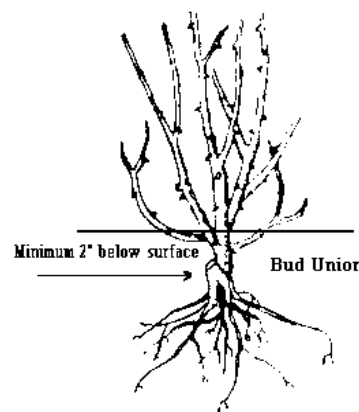
It is critical that you don't allow your bare-root plants to lay exposed for any length of time while planting. Make your plans or preparations in advance.

Before you open the bag:

- Decide where the plants are going to be planted.
- Gather the tools you need (spade, gloves, bucket of water, garden hose with water turned on, bonemeal and/or plant starter fertilizer)
- Prepare the planting area by adding manure and peatmoss (or compost). Dig the holes about 18 inches deep and wide and mix in a double handful of bonemeal at the bottom of the hole. **DO NOT USE GRANULAR ROSE FOOD AT PLANTING TIME, IT WILL BURN THE ROOTS AND KILL THE ROSE.**

Ready to Plant:

- Trim 1" off the ends of the roots before you plant. Freshly trimmed roots develop new roots quicker and newly developed roots take up more nutrients than older ones.
- If your roses have broken dormancy prior to planting trim any white shoots back to 1/8".
- Place your plants in a bucket of water and take them out separately as you plant each one. If you can't fit all the plants in the bucket, leave the remaining ones sealed in the bag in a cool place out of the sun.
- Place the rose in the hole setting the union **AT LEAST 2 INCHES BELOW THE SURFACE** of the garden. *This is imperative in colder climates (zone 6 and colder) as it affords the plant extra protection in the winter*, in warmer climates the union may be placed level with the surface. You may plant deeper if you wish. *Some of our customers in Minnesota and Manitoba plant as deep as 6 inches below the surface with great success.*
- Back fill the hole and compress the soil with your foot. *Packing it down with your hands isn't good enough as it doesn't eliminate air pockets.*
- Water the plants thoroughly with plant starter solution before back-filling completely.
- Back fill again if there is significant settling of the soil after watering in.
- **Hill the plants up with a mound of soil about 10" deep.** *This protects the plant for the winter or if planting in the spring, protects the plant from drying out while it sets roots.* Remove the mound about 2 weeks after planting.



The following can cause newly planted roses to fail

1. Allowing the roots to dry out prior to or during planting. If yours is a combined order with others, then please distribute the roses with care so that the plants do not suffer. When planting, make sure that the roots are wet and are not left exposed.
2. If planting is done in a poorly drained location or in ground that is continuously soggy.
3. Planting in too much shade or where there is too much competition from tree or shrub roots.
4. **Adding granulated fertilizer in the planting hole.** Bonemeal or superphosphate are safe to use, but the roots should not be directly on top of either, instead, it should be well mixed with the soil. You may water in with a plant starter solution.
5. Adding excessive amounts of manure, especially if fresh, or using a manure or mushroom compost to hill up the plants for winter. Both substances will have a deteriorating effect on the branches.
6. Planting roses in a cold climate in raised beds (above ground level), or in containers without proper insulation.
7. Leaving the soil too loose after planting. As you back-fill the holes, press the soil firmly around the roots by foot and water before back filling completely.
8. Planting with insufficient or no protection. At planting time the roses should be mounded up with soil, leaving only the branch tips sticking out. Fall planted roses should be left over winter this way. In spring a newly planted rose is best treated the same way to prevent the branches from drying out in the sun and wind; after two weeks the mound should be removed.
9. Planting adjacent to an area where there's rubbish or tall weeds or grass in which rodents may nest. During the winter they will girdle the bark at ground level, which takes a keen eye to detect. As a prevention poison bait can be used.

For more cultural tips and for detailed pruning suggestions please visit our website www.pickeringnurseries.com