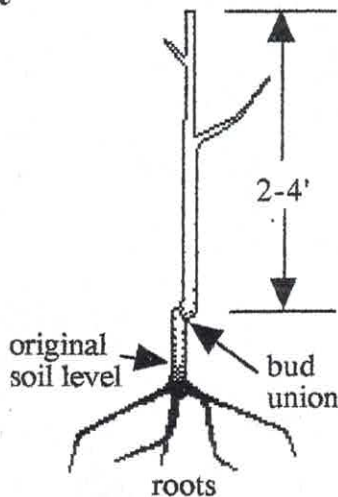


### A. The naked plant

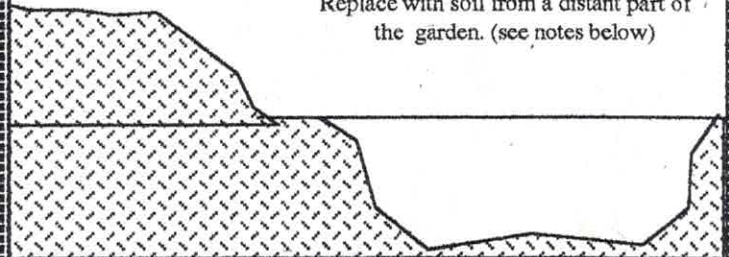
Bare root fruit trees are usually pruned at 2 to 4 feet tall at time of planting. Prune off small side branches and shorten the remaining ones. Cut off any cracked or severely damaged root tissue at the point of injury. Notice that the bud union, which is where the fruit variety is grafted to its rootstock, usually angles off to one side. Recognize the change in color where the trunk meets the roots which indicates the original soil level, typically 3-6 inches below the bud union.



### B. Dig the Hole

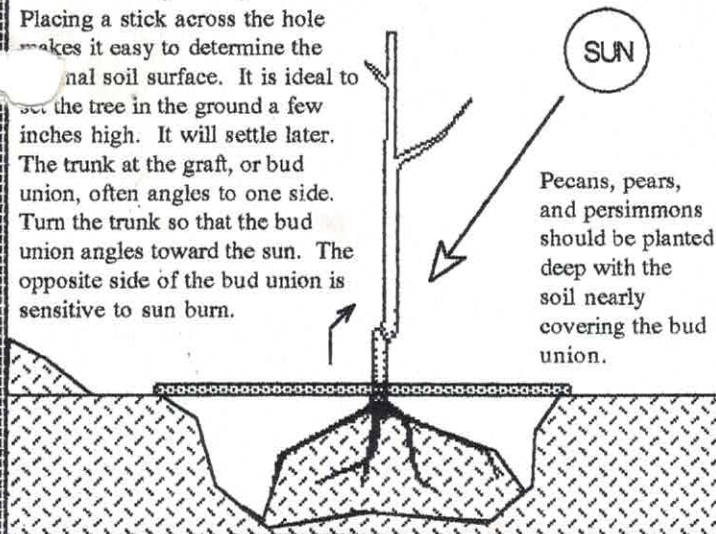
Create a generous hole, however, it is not necessary to dig any deeper than the roots of the plant. Set the soil aside. For most trees it is not necessary or desirable to amend the soil. In pure clay it is advantageous to amend with pumice. In extremely rocky soil it is advantageous to amend with peat moss. Compost, sawdust, manure, or bark (found in commercial planter mixes) should never be used. **\*\*If you replace a previously established tree with a closely related tree it is necessary to replace at least 1/2 cubic yard of soil. This is roughly a hole 4 feet across and 1 foot deep.**

Replace with soil from a distant part of the garden. (see notes below)



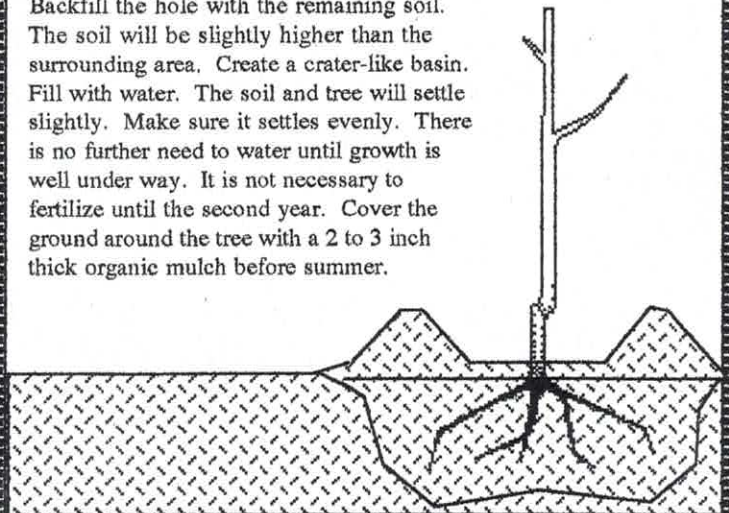
### C. Proper placement

Placing a stick across the hole makes it easy to determine the original soil surface. It is ideal to set the tree in the ground a few inches high. It will settle later. The trunk at the graft, or bud union, often angles to one side. Turn the trunk so that the bud union angles toward the sun. The opposite side of the bud union is sensitive to sun burn.



### D. Finishing Touch

Backfill the hole with the remaining soil. The soil will be slightly higher than the surrounding area. Create a crater-like basin. Fill with water. The soil and tree will settle slightly. Make sure it settles evenly. There is no further need to water until growth is well under way. It is not necessary to fertilize until the second year. Cover the ground around the tree with a 2 to 3 inch thick organic mulch before summer.



Bare root fruit trees are 100% successful if instructions are followed carefully.

Before planting make certain that the plant doesn't dry out or overheat. *Bare* root plants are very sensitive. The trees can be left in a bucket of water overnight before planting. It is better to do any root trimming well before planting.

These trees tolerate many soils, but prefer loose, well-drained soil. Raised beds (even just a few inches) work wonders. We no longer recommend amending the soil with any compost. Compost can initiate root disease by consuming oxygen, critical for root growth. We prefer pumice (volcanic rock) as the best way to get oxygen into clay soil immediately. It works best when pumice makes up about 20-30% of the soil. **Laguna Hills Nursery Planter Mix** is mostly pumice and is a suitable soil conditioner.

With most fruit trees it is important to create low branching. This makes harvesting much easier. This is accomplished by pruning the tree low at installation and by pinching new growth in June and again in September.

**\*Pecan and Walnut trees are ultrasensitive to overly shallow planting.** Our suppliers recommend that they be planted several inches deeper than the original. Pears and Persimmons are also quite sensitive if any roots are exposed.

**\*\*REPLANT SYNDROME** Replanting a tree where an established tree of the same (or closely related) type had lived previously results in weak or no growth for many years. Severed root fragments from the previous tree create an environment which is detrimental for root health and vigor for many years. Unrelated plants are not affected. Either change the soil, sterilize the soil, or change the crop.