



**Burnt Ridge Nursery & Orchards, Inc.**  
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## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR TREE ARRIVES

### PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Open the carton carefully & inspect the plants. We take great care to pack properly for shipment. Thus, they should be planted as soon as possible.

### IF YOU CAN'T PLANT RIGHT AWAY:

For bare root orders, please check the packing material. It should be damp, not dried out. You may need to moisten the roots. Keep the box in a sheltered place (unheated barn, garage, or the north side of a building - if not hard freezing weather). If the contents of the box are frozen, thaw gradually in a shady place.

### PLANTING:

Do not put any nitrogen fertilizer in the planting hole, for ANY plants. Dig a hole as big as the root system or larger. It's better to prune the roots, than to bend them into too small a hole. Spread the roots around in all directions as much as possible. Plants should be planted out at the same depth as they were in at the nursery.

Good weed control & regular watering during dry spells are critical. Newly set out plants need to be watered regularly during the first year.

Some plants are very slow to break dormancy when being transplanted. Persimmons, mulberries, jujube, peaches, nectarines and dogwood can sometimes delay breaking dormancy until mid-summer. Scrape the bark with a fingernail or knife down low on the trunk to determine if a tree is still alive. If you see some green tissue under the bark, be patient because the plant is still alive.

### PRUNING:

Invariably, some plant roots are lost in the nursery digging process. Growth will be better if plants are pruned to compensate. Most plants can be pruned at planting time. Peaches, plums, nectarines & apricots are best pruned AFTER they start new growth. Any broken branches, or roots and dead wood should be cut back to healthy wood.

When planting bareroot fruit trees, side branches can be cut back by one half or more. If you want a tree to get big, and low branches are not desired, this is a good time to remove them. If you wish to keep the tree compact, and there are few low branches, then a heading cut should be made low on the leader, just above where you want branches to develop to force low branching. But make sure you prune the tree above

the graft so it doesn't revert to the rootstock. To keep the tree small, follow up by summer pruning.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

**PAW PAWS** - Protect paw paws from slugs, snails & intense sunlight. Shade the plants their first year from harsh sunlight.

**BLUEBERRIES, LINGONBERRIES, HUCKLEBERRIES, CRANBERRIES** - Add a generous amount of organic matter (moistened peat moss or compost) and mix it into the native soil. If your soil is NOT highly acidic, lots of peat moss will make it so. These plants REQUIRE an acid soil. They are very sensitive to fertilizers, so there should NOT be a strong fertilizer/manure added to the soil. They need a good organic mulch, reapplied every fall or early winter - to a depth of several inches - in order to retard moisture & weed competition. These plants are NOT drought tolerant. Blueberries & cranberries especially require a constantly moist, not water logged, soil during the growing season.