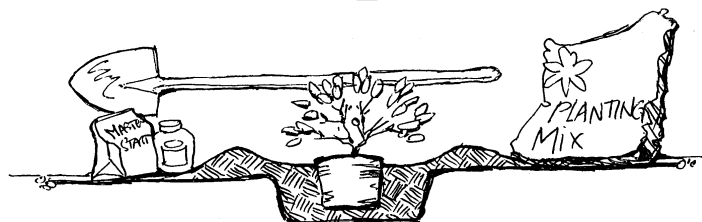


Fruit Tree Pulp Pot Planting



PREPARE THE HOLE

It is easier to dig a planting hole when the soil is moist. Pre-water the area you plan to work with a long, slow soak a day or two before you plan to dig.

Dig a hole approximately twice as wide and just slightly deeper than the pot. Make sure the sides and bottom of the hole are rough, not smooth to encourage the roots to forge into the native soil. Be generous with the width. A wide planting hole will help the roots establish quickly and grow faster.

Mix native soil removed from the planting hole 50/50 with **G&B Planting Mix**. Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup **Master Nursery Master Start** or **EB Stone Sure Start** into the soil mixture.

PLANTING

Your tree should be given a deep watering the day before or just prior to planting.

All fruit trees are potted in biodegradable pulp pots for easy planting. Lay tree on side and carefully cut bottom of pulp pot off with hand pruners or utility knife. Do not remove tree from pot.* Place tree into center of hole. At least 2-3 inches of root ball should be above original garden soil level. This helps in giving adequate drainage for original root ball and is the most important tip to ensure the viability of your new tree in heavy clay soil. Carefully replace soil around new tree with the soil mixture above and create a 3-foot-wide mound. With remaining soil create water basin around top of mound. Water your new plant thoroughly. Water every 2 weeks if weather is dry. If it is rainy, do not water tree again until leaves begin to emerge in March and April.

Persimmons are particularly sensitive to too much water. The pot lip will act like a water basin at first. When temperatures warm, remove the lip so it doesn't wick water away from the roots.

*There are 2 exceptions. 1) Early season planting when trees are still dormant. They can be bare rooted. *Ask us for details.* 2) Late season planting (July on). Remove the pot entirely as roots are now holding the soil together.

CARE FOR YOUR TREE

When planting a new fruit tree, you decide if you would like your tree to be low or high-headed. If low, cut side limbs back by at least $\frac{2}{3}$ to promote vigorous new growth. For high-headed, remove the side branches to the desired height. Branches along the trunk always remain at the height they are above the ground. They do not grow "up" with the trunk.

It might be necessary to stake your tree. Please see the recommendations on the back for *Tree Staking*.

Young trees would benefit from having their tree trunks painted with our tree trunk paint to prevent damage from UV rays.

In spring, maintain your new planting by fertilizing with **Master Nursery Fruit & Vine Food** or **EB Stone Fruit, Berry & Vine Food**. Repeat again mid-summer and fall.



Fruit Tree Pulp Pot Planting (cont'd)

TREE STAKING GUIDELINES

If your fruit tree is particularly tall or you are planting it in an especially windy location, consider staking. Here are the basics:

Most trees are top heavy in the wind and require staking at the time of planting. Stakes are generally needed the first 2 years in the landscape until the root system and trunk are well established. The objective is to support the trunk gently, allowing some movement in ordinary breezes. Allowing some movement ensures the tree trunk develops necessary strength. The stakes are not meant to tightly restrict movement but should be standing by for the occasional windstorm that could otherwise break or blow over a tree.

LODGE POLES

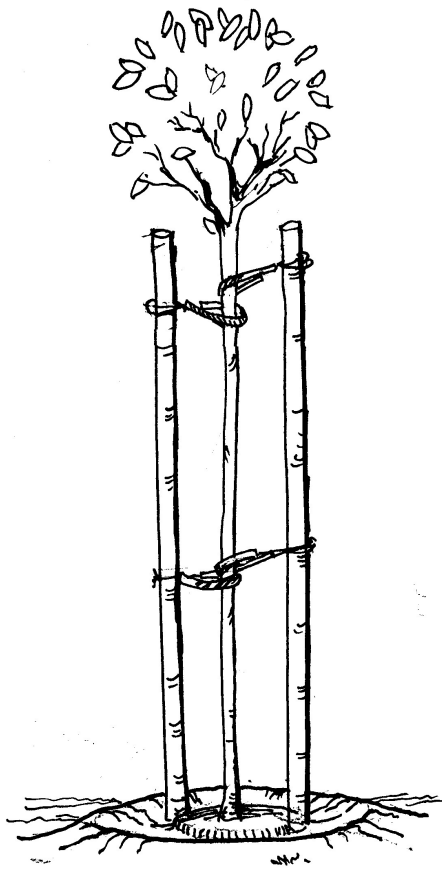
These are the most common and least expensive staking alternative. They are placed in pairs left and right of the tree and tied with rubber straps. Two stakes are suggested for most trees, the height depends on the particular tree; 8-foot poles are fine for most trees; 10-foot poles for taller trees.

After the planting hole is prepared, but before placing the tree in the hole, drive 2 planting stakes root-ball-width apart into the solid undisturbed soil beneath the hole. Place the stakes north and south of the tree so that they sort of cradle the tree in the prevailing westerly wind.

Place the plant between the stakes and finish planting according to the instructions on the reverse side of this flier. Make sure the top of the root ball rests a little higher than the surrounding, original grade.

Secure the tree with rubber tree ties just below the first set of branches and about halfway up the tree trunk, between the ground and the first branch. Don't secure the tree so tightly that it cannot move in the wind. The stakes and ties are there for support in the wilder weather, but the tree should be allowed to sway and develop strength on its own in ordinary weather.

Each fall, re-inspect the lodge poles and ties to be sure they are secure for the winter ahead.



Alden Lane Nursery

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