



Royal Oak Farm Orchard Fruit Tree Planting Instructions

READ BEFORE PLANTING! If you read it, they will grow!



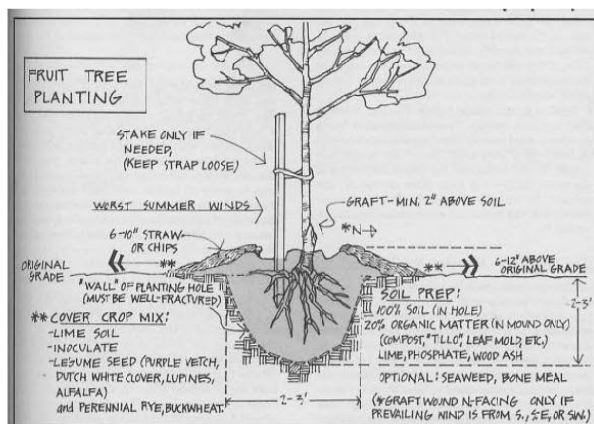
Seasonal Information. Apple trees are quite tolerant, withstanding most conditions, including wind and cold. It is recommended that bare root apple trees be planted in spring. Container trees can be planted in the spring through fall.

Location. Full sunlight and good air circulation are the most important concerns to think about when selecting your planting location. While apple trees can tolerate a wide range of soil types, they will not thrive in areas with poor drainage or high acid levels. Be sure to space your trees according to the size rootstock your tree has..

Pollination. Apple trees benefit greatly from cross-pollination, as they are not self-fertile trees. If you do not have a flowering crab apple tree within 50 feet of your apple tree location, you will need to plant at least one other variety that blooms at the same time as your apple tree nearby.

Planting Instructions. Potted Tree: The container is biodegradable so leave the tree in the container. Begin by digging your planting hole the same size as the container of your tree. If the tree is in a root pouch, cut the container up the side about 8" in length spaced about every 4" apart. If the roots have filled the container or are winding around, use your fingers to gently pull the roots apart a bit through the slices, or poke into the root ball with a pointed instrument and wiggle about a bit to loosen the roots and compacted soil. Be sure to leave the soil intact around the roots.

Bare Root Tree: Set bare root trees on top of a small mound of soil in the middle of the hole. Spread the roots out evenly. The roots should be directed out and downward when you plant. The very top of the roots (crown of the plant) should be at or just below the soil surface when you are done planting. Keep the graft union at least 2" above the soil line. Fill the hole in with soil and pack firmly. Be sure to water the tree, as this will permit the roots to make good contact with the soil right away. Add a tree stake to maintain the proper growing angle of the tree.



Watering. Your apple tree will need to be watered regularly to make certain that the root system becomes well established. The soil surrounding your tree should be moist, but never saturated. Light green leaves can be a sign of over watering, while drooping leaves can be a sign of both over or under watering.

Fertilization. Add one cup of a good 10-10-10 or 13-13-13 fertilizer mixed thoroughly with the soil while planting your tree. Your apple tree will benefit from being fertilized annually with a 10-10-10 formula.



Weed Control. Any weeds that are present around the area of your tree should be removed immediately. Insulate the tree with 3-4 inches of mulch, and be sure to replenish as needed.

Pests & Disease. The best defense is a healthy tree. Good soil, proper feeding and adequate water are vital to its prosperity. Consult Royal Oak Farm Orchard's web site for proper pest and disease control for your tree

Pruning. Your apple tree will need very little pruning during its first year. In year two you can consult Royal Oak Farm Nursery pruning guide or web site for proper pruning techniques. Mature apple trees will require annual pruning.