

blackmoor

Blackmoor

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Dear Customer,

Thank you for ordering from Blackmoor Nurseries. We trust you will be pleased with your plants and by following our growing guide below we hope you have many years of success with them. Our plants have been professionally grown on our Nursery with the correct attention to nutrients, and pest and disease control. They are despatched in good condition ready to establish and thrive in your garden for many years to come.

Please unpack and inspect your plants immediately on arrival.

CARE GUIDE FOR FRUIT TREES

Choice of Variety: We have a wide range of varieties available, but it is essential to remember when making your selection that cross-pollination is required for good cropping. Select suitable pollinators by referring to our pollination tables.

Where to Plant: Choose a warm sheltered position and avoid badly drained soil and low-lying areas where spring frosts are likely to damage the blossom. Morello cherries and cooking plums are the only trees that will thrive on north facing walls.

Soil Preparation: Dig the area to be planted and make sure the soil is clear from perennial weeds. If your soil is acid, mix in some lime, likewise add garden compost or well rotted manure to a light sandy soil. If you have heavy clay, mix in some sand and plant on a raised bed to help drainage.

Add Rootgrow - Mycorrhizal fungi gives your plants the best possible start and are critically important to these plant groups to ensure good establishment, better early growth and lifetime health of your plants. In the case of fruit, mycorrhizal fungi is particularly good at extracting phosphorous from clay soils.

When to Plant: Planting of containerised trees can take place all year round but is inadvisable when the soil is too wet or frozen.

Bare rooted trees can be planted anytime between during their dormant period from November to April. They should be planted within 48 hours of arrival, if you are unable to do so or the soil is too wet or frozen, temporarily heel them in until the conditions improve and the soil becomes friable.

Planting: The hole should only be dug just prior to planting. The stake should be in place prior to planting and should be at a 45° angle if planting a containerised potted tree and straight if planting a bare root tree. To prevent root constriction dig the hole so that it is 1½ times the size of rootball and loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole. Place the tree in the hole, fairly close to the stake so that it is easy to tie it in whilst keeping the tree upright and replace soil to cover the roots. Shake the tree up and down to get the soil around the roots. Check that the union will be at least 3 inches above the eventual soil level and raise the tree if necessary. Gently firm the soil around the roots, replace the remaining soil, and then firm the soil with your boot and level off. Tie the tree to the stake with an adjustable tree tie.

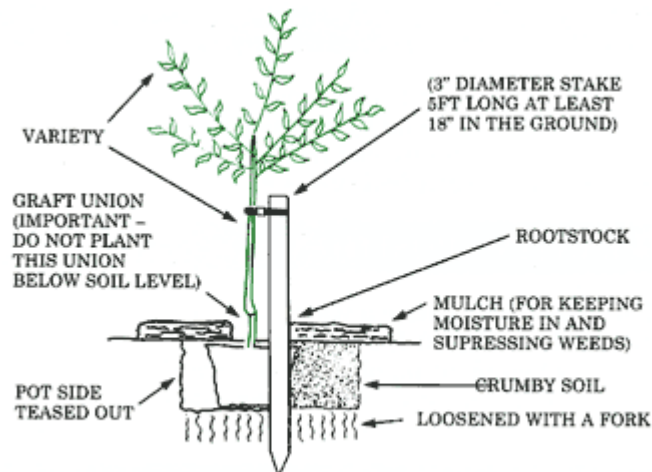


FIG 1 FRUIT AND NUT TREE

BARE ROOT TREES

Post-Delivery Handling, Storage and Planting Advice

VERY IMPORTANT – On arrival trees should be watered and heeled in or planted within 48 hours. Your bare root trees have been lifted, handled and stored prior to delivery in the most careful and professional way. It is possible that due to the time in transit that roots may have dried out to some extent, this is not detrimental provided the following advice is followed.

Immediately soak all roots with water and preferably even root dip in bucket of water for between 1 and 2 hours. Place bundles root to root in a frost free building and cover against drying out and for vermin protection.

Heeling in – This is recommended if trees are not planted or potted within 48 hours. Select a well drained loose and friable soil. Sand, peat and other soil-less mediums are also very good for this purpose. Lay in such a way as to bring soil into close contact with all roots. Bundles should be cut open at the bottom and laid with their roots well spread out in an adequate trench, covered with soil and firmed. Protect from rabbits. If possible position your heeling in area in the shade on the north side of a building, this will keep your trees dormant for longer as spring approaches.

Planting – It is better to plant late in good conditions than early in poor conditions. If planting conditions are not ideal when the trees arrive then heeling in is recommended and allow the right planting moment to be taken from then on.

Position – For most fruits choose a warm sheltered position avoiding wet or shaded spots. Crops are likely to be sparse in frosty situations.

Please note: *All newly planted plants take longer to come out of their dormancy in the first spring following planting and this delay can vary greatly between individual plants so please give them until late May/early June to begin growing. Ensure that the area where they are planted is kept moist as lack of watering or rainfall will increase the delay in the plants beginning to shoot. Frequency of the watering must be increased once they begin growing as they have insufficient roots when young to tolerate drought and this will cause the plants to fail. Never allow newly planted bushes to fruit in the first season as this also places strain on good root establishment.*

Patio Trees Only – All patio trees should be permanently staked at all times and planted 5-6 foot (1.5-1.8m) apart in the ground or if being planted into containers please select a container that does not dry out too quickly, such as an unglazed terracotta, with a diameter of 12-16" (30-40cm) and of a similar depth. Please use good quality compost such as John Innes No 3 and annually

apply a slow release fertiliser. Mulching is also recommended to prevent the compost drying out too quickly and this can either be well rotted manure, ornamental bark or ornamental stones.

Watering: During the first growing season following planting please ensure the soil is kept moist at all times, from just before bud burst through to leaf fall. This is particularly vital for cherries as they are very thirsty trees and lack of water will quickly cause them to die. Always water thoroughly to prevent shallow rooting and this should be carried out during the early morning and early evening.

As trees mature this is not vital but during periods of drought all trees should be watered otherwise there is a risk of plant failure, smaller fruit and a smaller number of fruit buds being produced the following year. As a guideline for established trees apply 45 litres (10 gallons) every fortnight during periods of drought.

Pruning: After planting all trees must be pruned with the exception of Plums, Cherries, Peaches, Nectarines and Apricots, for these wait until April to avoid disease. For specialised tree forms refer to our Fruit Growers Handbook on our website at www.blackmoor.co.uk. For bush trees you should at least:

- a. Remove any unwanted upright branches at the top of the tree.
- b. Cut back all the leading shoots by one third or a half, to a bud facing the direction in which further growth is required. This strengthens the framework and promotes more young shoots (further branching). These shoots should be shortened by about a quarter of their length during the second winter after planting.

When shortening a shoot, cut close to a bud otherwise the stub left will die back and may become diseased. When completely removing a branch, cut as close as possible to the base.

Mulching: To help the soil to stay moist, mulch the surface around the trees in spring. Straw, peat, compost, forest bark or a piece of black polythene are suitable materials. Whatever is used, a 2 ft circle around each tree should be kept free of weeds or growth will be affected.

Deblossoming: To get a good start trees must not fruit in the first summer after planting. This can be prevented by cutting off the flowers, leaving the surrounding leaves, at the end of the blossom-time in mid-May.

Pest and Disease Control: We suggest that you spray at least three times every year using a fungicide to control scab and mildew and include an insecticide to kill aphids and caterpillars if these are present. Please ensure you do not spray with an insecticide during flowering, as this will kill the bees.

Green cluster = just before flowering in late April

Petal fall = just after flowering in mid-May

Fruitlet stage = late June

SUGGESTED PLANTING DISTANCE FOR FRUIT TREES

		Feet	Metres
Apples	Dwarf Bush on M27 and M9	6-8	1.8-2.4
	Bush trees on M26	8-10	2.4-3.0
	Bush trees on MM106	10-15	3.0-4.5
	Half Standards	15-20	4.5-6.0
	Oblique cordons - summer pruned	2.5-3	0.75-0.9
	Dwarf pyramid - summer pruned	4-6	1.2-1.8
	Espalier and fan trained - summer pruned	15	4.5
	Step over trained - summer pruned	10	3.0
Pears	Bush trees on Quince C	8-10	2.4-3.0
	Bush trees on Quince A	10-15	3.0-4.5
	Oblique cordons - summer pruned	2.5-3	0.75-0.9
	Dwarf pyramid - summer pruned	4-6	1.2-1.8
	Espalier and fan trained - summer pruned	15	4.5
	Step over trained - summer pruned	10	3.0
Plums	Bush trees on VVA1	8	2.5
	Bush trees on St Julian A	10-15	3.0-4.5
	Dwarf pyramid	5-8	1.5-2.4
	Fan trained	15-18	4.5-5.5
	Half standard	15-20	4.5-6.0
Cherries	Bush trees on Gisela 5	8-10	2.4-3.0
	Bush trees on Colt	15-20	4.5-6.0
	Fan trained and half standards	15-20	4.5-6.0
Peach, Nectarine & Apricot	Bush trees on Montclare	8-10	2.4-3.0
	Bush trees on St Julian A	10-15	3.0-4.5
Quince & Medlar	Half standards		
	Standard	15-18	4.5-5.5
Mulberry	Bush trees	20	6.0
Almonds	Bush trees	10-13	3.0-4.0
Chestnuts	Bush trees	15-18	4.5-5.0
Cobnuts	Bush	15	4.5
Walnuts	Bush trees	34-40	10.5-12.0