

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. Do not worry about the seemingly lack of roots. This is perfectly normal.

CARE GUIDE FOR FRUIT TREE ROOTSTOCKS

Plants purchased arrive at your doorstep as dormant bare-root stock because the lack of soil makes plants less bulky and reduces the weight for cheaper shipping costs. These plants can go straight into the ground if they arrive and the soil is not frozen. But if your plants come early, you must take special care to keep the roots moist until planting time. Bare-root plants lose up to 95 percent of their roots when nursery workers dig them up for shipping, so you can use this grace period to stimulate new root growth in preparation for planting outdoors.

- 1) Pack the roots with a water-absorbent material such as sawdust, loose moist soil, hay, paper or straw. Pack the material between and around the roots to form a root ball similar to what surrounds the roots in potted plants. Moisten the absorbent material first so that it packs more easily.
- 2) Place the dormant root stock in a damp paper bag or a plastic bag to prevent moisture loss. Cover the roots completely, and add more premoistened absorbent material to the bag to help establish new root growth. Inspect the root moisture frequently, and add more water to keep the medium moist so that the rootstock doesn't dry out. Leave the aerial part of the plant outside the bag, and tie the bag loosely around the plant stem.
- 3) Store the rootstock in a cool, dry, shaded area such as an unheated garage, shed or basement until you are ready to transplant outside. These spaces are ideal environments for root growth and replacement.
- 4) Water the roots thoroughly about six hours before planting to ensure that the plant is well-hydrated, reducing the risk of transplant shock.
- 5) Transplant the bare-rootstock plant outdoors when all danger of frost has passed. Dig a hole slightly deeper than the root system height and two to three times the width of the root ball. Mound the soil in the bottom of the planting hole, and drape the roots evenly around the sides; the mound must be high enough to elevate the plants so that the base of the stem rests just above soil grade. Backfill the hole with soil, and lightly pack the soil around the plant stem to remove air pockets in the soil and hold the plant upright. Bare-root trees might require staking during the first year after transplanting to hold the tree upright; remove the stake within one year of transplanting.
- 6) Water the plant daily for the first week after transplanting. After the first week, reduce watering to every two days for the first month or two after planting. After one to two months, reduce to watering once weekly until the plant establishes itself in the new site. This is a general guideline for watering all plants; follow the specific plant's watering needs, and pay attention to plant performance as a more accurate guide to irrigation.
- 7) If you prefer, you can plant the bare-root stock in containers when you receive them, and transplant them outdoors when the weather warms. Plant in a potting media that holds moisture

but also allows excess water to drain freely, such as a combination of peat moss, compost and coarse sand.

Grafting Rootstocks.

You will need a sharp knife and [grafting tape](#) to seal the graft to the rootstock.

Whip and Tongue Graft – There is a good YouTube video on this [here](#)
It is a good idea to practice on a piece of wood before you attempt to make the graft.

This guide is for general information purposes only as site and soil conditions and requirements vary greatly.