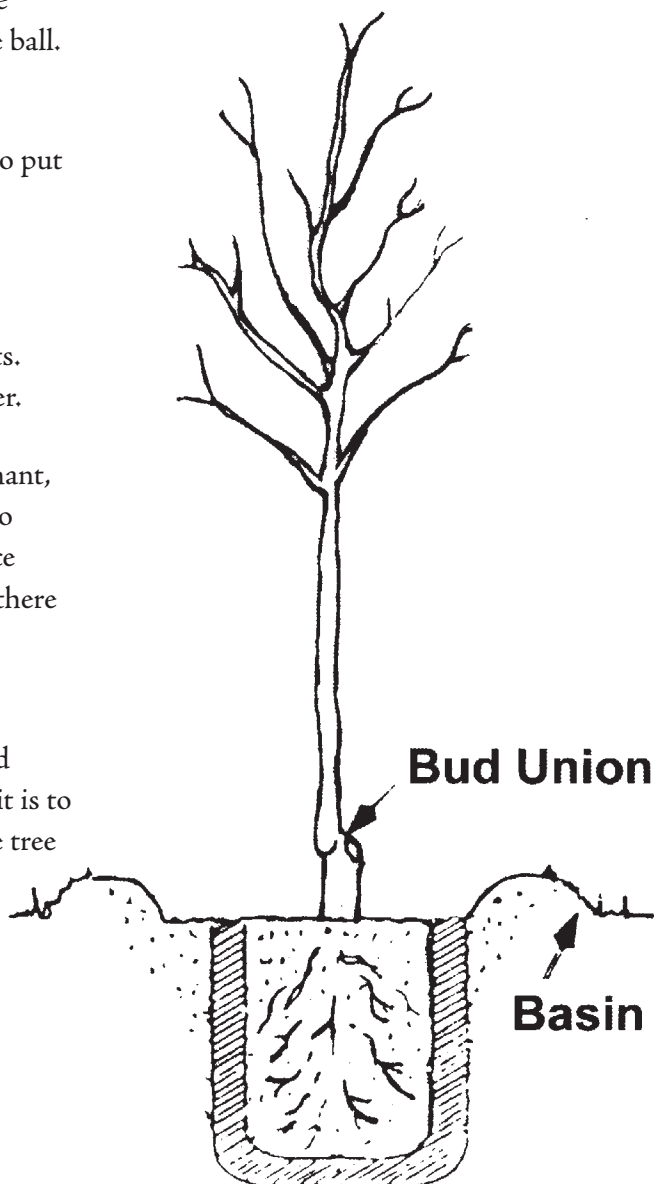


Planting Bareroot

Remember: Never let bareroot trees or plants dry out before planting. Keep roots from freezing.

1. Dig a big planting hole so the roots are not crowded -at least 1½ to 2 times the width of the root system but only slightly deeper than the roots.
2. Trim extra long or broken roots. If planting out of a container, slip out tree being careful not to jar or crack the root ball. Loosen a few roots at the bottom or sides of the ball. Avoid encircling roots.
3. Mix one part humus or planting mix with 3 parts soil to put in around the roots. Add slow release fertilizer.
4. Make sure bud union is above the ground.
5. Tamp soil firmly around the tree eliminating air pockets. Make a wide, shallow basin around the tree to retain water.
6. Water thoroughly for penetration. If the trees are dormant, you should not need to water again until the trees begin to leaf. Too much water during the dormant stage will reduce root development and possibly harm the tree. As long as there is damp (not wet) soil 2" and more below the surface, the dormant tree should be fine.
7. Prune top by ⅓ to ½. Remove all but 3 or 4 well spaced branches. Suggestion: The lower the branches, the easier it is to reach the fruit at harvest time. Do not be afraid to cut the tree short.



Reasons Trees Don't Bear

AGE:

Many varieties need to be 3 to 4 years old or even older like Pecans at 5 years. Older trees may need feeding and pruning to rejuvenate.

FROST:

Late frosts during blooming time.

POLLINATION:

Some varieties require another tree to pollinize. Rains can affect pollen during bloom time.

PRUNING:

With improper pruning, all fruit wood could be cut off. There are a number of good booklets out with good pruning advice. See your local nursery professional.

CHILLING:

Planting wrong varieties for the climate. All fruit and nut trees need a specific amount of chilling hours before they will produce fruit. Chilling refers to the number of hours, 45° F and under, during the dormancy period. The amount varies with each variety and the hours need not be continuous.

LOCATION:

Planting in overly windy areas can cause fruit loss. The amount of chilling hours received by a tree can be affected by how close the tree is planted to a warm object such as a building.

WATER:

Over-watering can cause premature fruit drop, especially on persimmons. Planting fruit trees in sprinkled lawns is not recommended. Lack of deep watering can also cause fruit drop. Fall shock or stress can effect next year's fruit.

FERTILIZER:

Lack of food at critical times.

Gumming

Each spring horticulturists receive inquiries from tree fruit growers about gumming or sap exudate along trunks, limbs or branches of fruit trees. Sometimes gum indicates the presence of a disease organism but often it results from physiological or environmental conditions. If gumming is due to a disease such as bacterial canker or "gummosis" the exudate will be discolored or dark in color. In this situation the sap is subject to fermentation, foul odors and sometimes frothiness. Where gumming is due to physiological or environmental conditions, the sap is clear in color (straw to yellow or light gold).

Gum often appears naturally at pruning cuts, bud scars and points of branching from main trunks. It can also result from changes in moisture status and temperature. Trees subjected to moisture stress in the fall may gum but recover and perform well the following spring when moisture conditions are improved. Abrupt temperature changes in the spring often cause young trees to gum because of disruptions in growth activity.

When checking gumming of young trees, first inspect the internal color of the gum or exudate. If it is clear in color, then it is probable that no disease is involved. As a second check, cut a sliver of bark from the tree below the gum site. When a disease such as *Phytophthora* is present, the internal bark tissue will be brown while normal tissue will be light green, light yellow or white when first cut. Trees with gumming but no evidence of disease can be expected to leaf out and grow normally.