

# How To PLANT FRUIT TREES!

1. Check how your soil drains. The tree will not live in soil that drains poorly. To test it, dig a hole about 1 foot deep and fill it with water. Let it drain, and then fill it again. If it takes longer than 2 hours to drain on the 2nd filling, you have problems! Your choices at this point are: don't plant there, or try raising the tree up above the soil level, planting it on a slight mound. Make sure you have chosen a site with at least 6 hours of sunlight. Any less and your tree will not bear fruit.

2. Finish your hole. A big hole is better than a small hole. The minimum would be about 2x2 feet if you can. If your soil seems very heavy (or clay-like), make some cracks around the edges of the hole and fill them with better soil.

3. Do not plant your tree too deep. Only the root system should be underground - don't bury any part of the trunk. Amend the soil if it seems to clayish or sandy. But the soil needs to be at least 2/3 original, with no more 1/3 amendment such as peat moss or potting soil.

4. Have somebody else hold the tree while you adjust the height by adding or removing soil under the roots. When the level is right, tamp soil down gently. Place additional soil in the hole until the roots are covered. Add water to settle the soil around the roots. Repeat the process, filling and watering, until the level of soil in the hole is equal to that of the surrounding ground, and the roots are covered.

5. Using leftover soil, build a circular ridge two feet away from the tree. This ring of soil will hold water over the roots while it soaks in. Very slowly pour about five gallons to make sure the ring holds water. Create a layer of loose organic material (leaves, dried grass, bark, twigs etc) to keep the soil beneath evenly moist. This should be inside the ring but not against the trunk.

*email us with any questions!  
send photos and video of your planting party!  
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