

Free Tree Program

Plant Species Available

Douglas Spirea



Large deciduous shrub. Grows 6 ft. tall and 3-7 ft. wide. Pink plumes bloom mid to late summer. Full sun to part shade; moist or wet soil; supports pollinators and birds, native to Willamette Valley.

Pacific Ninebark



Large deciduous shrub. Grows 8-12 ft. tall and 4-7 ft. wide. White flower clusters bloom in late spring. Full sun to part shade; moist or wet soil; supports pollinators, native to Willamette Valley.

Red Osier Dogwood



Large deciduous shrub. Grows to 15 ft. tall and 6-9 ft. wide. White flowers bloom late spring, red bark, full sun to part shade, moist or wet soil, supports hummingbirds and other birds, native to Willamette Valley.

Snowberry



Small deciduous shrub, 3-6 ft. tall, 6-13 ft. wide, pink flowers bloom spring to summer, full or part sun or part shade, moist to dry soil, supports pollinators, hummingbirds, and other birds; native to Willamette Valley.

Bareroot Planting Tips

What are Bareroot Plants?

As the name suggests, bareroot plants come with exposed roots. The plants are not bound in soil or in pots. These plants are provided during the dormant season, meaning they typically will not have leaves or flowers present until the spring or summer.

Because they are dormant, bareroots can be mistaken for “dead sticks.” This appearance is completely normal for dormant plants.

Handle Bareroots with Care:

When receiving your bareroot plants, it is important to keep the roots moist and cool to prevent them from drying out or coming out of dormancy. This can be achieved by planting them immediately. If temporary storage is needed prior to planting, place the roots in moist sawdust or soil and place them in a cool shaded location. Too much water, however, will drown the roots; do not oversaturate the sawdust/soil.

Steps for Planting Bareroot Plants:

1. Select your planting location. Remove any plant material such as sod and weeds from a 2-3 ft. circle where you will be planting.
- 2a. If the bareroot has a large root mass, dig a hole wide and deep enough to spread out the roots. Mound a small cone of soil in the center of the bottom of the hole and position the roots to hang down around the mound without turning up significantly or crowding.
- 2b. If the bareroot does not have a large root mass, loosen and break up the soil to create an opening in the soil that's just large enough to accommodate the roots in a somewhat natural position. Place the seedling into the opening so that the roots hang down and do not turn up.
3. Planting Depth: Be careful not to plant too deeply; aim to have the junction of the top root and the stem be at ground level. This is the same depth that the plant was in the ground at the nursery.
4. Backfill the planting hole with loose soil. Gently pack the surface around the plant after filling the hole.
5. If desired, place bark chips in a circle around the stem. You can also build a berm of bark chips or soil around the planting hole to hold water.

6. Water the plant thoroughly to eliminate any remaining air pockets.
7. During the first two weeks after planting, check that the planting hole soil is moist and water the plant as needed.

Maintaining Bareroot Plants: The first 2-3 years are the most important for establishing healthy roots and improving survival.

1. Maintain a 1–2-ft. circle around the planting that is weed-free and grass-free to prevent competition for moisture and sunlight.
2. Irrigating or hand-watering during the first few spring and summer seasons can help to improve survival, particularly for atypical drier spring seasons and during 90-degree hot weeks in the summer. It is suggested not to water too much or for too many years, however, as the roots may become dependent on watering over time.
3. Protection from deer, beaver, or other animals may be needed depending on your location and animals in your area. Installing wire cages or plastic protectors until the plants are taller than the browse height (4-6 ft.) can help to ensure plants survive.



We are excited to introduce a new member of the Clean Streams Team – Luke Westphal. Luke is the Urban Streamside Program Coordinator for the City of Salem. He will be following up after you receive your plants with planting info, plant care tips, and more information. Luke also offers site visits to streamside homeowners if they have questions about weeds, planting, or erosion. You can contact Luke with any follow up questions.

Information will be coming via the email you provided. Email will not be shared or sold; it will only be used for the purpose of the Free Tree and streamside programs.

Luke Westphal

Urban Streamside Program Coordinator

lwestphal@cityofsalem.net

