

Bare Root Perennial Planting Instructions

Our perennials are shipped to you during their dormant phase as they are easily transplanted during this phase. Due to their outward appearance during dormancy, one might think they are unhealthy or dying plants that have no chance of survival. **Nothing could be farther from the truth!** The quality of the perennial lies in its roots and not in what appears above the soil level when they are dormant. Most perennial plants lose some, if not all of their foliage, before winter sets in and their dormant phase begins. Some varieties have thicker roots than others and cannot be judged by their root thickness alone. The quantity of roots in the root ball determines the quality of the perennial rather than the size of the individual roots.

Regardless of variety, for best results you should 're-hydrate' all Bare Root perennials before planting. This can be done by allowing the roots to soak in room temperature water for approximately one hour before planting. When you plant perennials, make sure that the hole you dig is large. A rough rule of thumb is to make the hole at least three times as wide as the root, plug or pot. This allow the young developing roots to go out into well-aerated soil and find their way easily. If you have heavy clay soil, you should make the hole even larger as heavy clay is hard for the new roots to penetrate. Add one shovel of well-aged compost to the soil that you use to fill the hole that you've dug.

As a general rule, most perennials should be planted with their crown approximately 2"– 5 cm below the soil surface. Plants sometimes benefit from the root being spread or fanned when transplanting. This will encourage new root growth. Once covered with the soil/compost mixture be sure to water your plants well. This soaking is one of the best tips for giving your Bare Root perennials a good start in the garden. Ensuring that the roots are well covered and damp gives them a much better chance to become established and grow quickly. Maintain your plants by watering at least once a week for the first month. This weekly watering should be a heavy soaking, designed to get water right to the bottom of the roots.

Bare Root perennials do take some patience initially as it will take a year or two before they are fully established and blooming in your garden. Keep in mind the old adage when it comes to newly planted perennials: First year sleeps, second year creeps, and third year leaps! The reward of watching your lovely perennials bloom year after year will certainly be well worth the wait.