

Beautiful bare rooted trees

I've always wanted an orchard. It's a dream that just doesn't fit with my current home in suburban Melbourne. But that doesn't stop the dream.

Living in a smaller space, also doesn't stop you having a productive garden, and that includes fruit trees. They provide fruit, shade in the summer, a home for birdlife (not always wanted when fruit is ripening I grant you!) and a clear way to stay connected to nature. Watching the tree bud, coming out of winter, the limbs grow heavy with fruit, and then the slow drop of leaves, certainly makes the seasons very real, looking out your kitchen window.

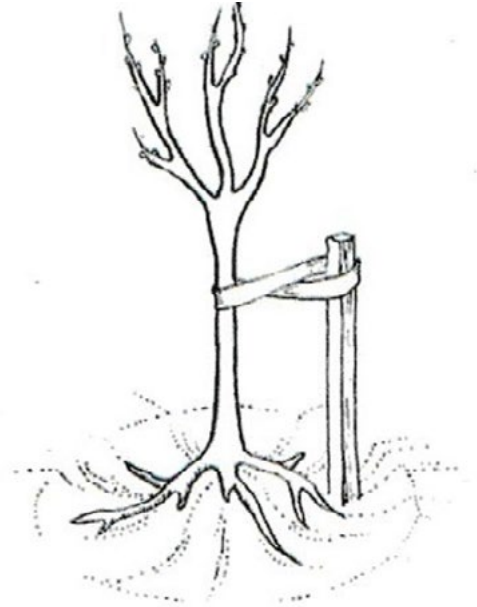
The good news is right now is the best time to plant fruit trees, and the best ones to purchase are those sold bare rooted. They have a number of advantages over the potted variety:

1. They will take full advantage of their new location with full spring growth
2. Bare Root trees are usually a little cheaper than their potted counterparts
3. Chances are you will find that rare tree you've had trouble sourcing in pots!

Planting trees now gives them a few months to become established before the full heat of summer

The team at Fleming's nursery provide the following advice:

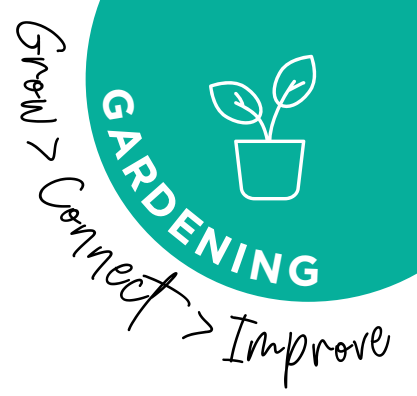
1. Prune. At Fleming's we recommend pruning your tree by a minimum of 30% but better yet by 50%. That means you need to get those trusty secateurs out and don't be nervous – simply cut all the branches off evenly at about half way and you are done.



Plant tree in a shallow depression with a mound under the roots



Week Eleven



2. Water. It is imperative you water you bare root trees. These guys love to drink - especially through spring when they are establishing their lovely new root system and taking hold of your soil. We recommend a standard 2-gallon bucket of water at least once a week right through til Christmas.

<https://www.flemings.com.au/latest-news/beautiful-bare-root-trees/>

The wonderful team from Gardening Australia provide the following advice regarding pruning of your new tree:

Ornamental Trees: To retain the shape of an ornamental tree it is important to retain the dominant central leader and branching structure. Completely remove the lowest branches at the trunk to reduce the transplant stress, and lift the canopy of the tree.

Stone Fruit: Prune out the dominant central leader to create a vase-shaped tree. This allows air circulation and light into the canopy, reducing fungal disease and encouraging even fruit development.

Cut side branches to an outward facing bud, about 30 cm from the trunk.

Fruit Trees: Fruit trees like apples and pears can be pruned with the same method as stone fruit, or the dominant central leader can be retained for an upright tree.

Cut side branches to an outward facing bud, about 30 cm from the trunk.

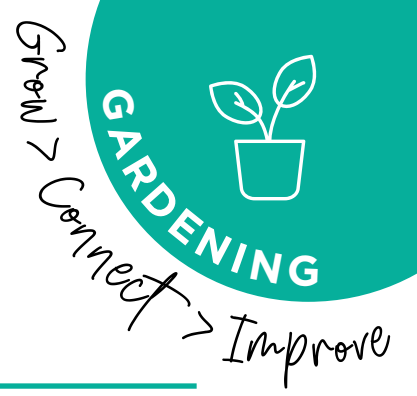
<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/bare-root-trees/9430054>

When planting, dig a hole wider than it is deep. Add in some organic matter such as compost or well rotted manure.

Make a mound in the centre of the hole with soil. Place the tree on the mound, spreading the roots evenly. Back fill the hole . Make sure that the graft union on the main trunk is above the soil level. Water in well.



Week Eleven



Gardening Tips

What beautiful bright sunny days we have had this week (I know very cold nights too).

I have enjoyed getting out in our vegie come herb garden to do some winter clearing of overgrown plants and weeds. In fact the only thing going for our poor little back garden at Umina is the lovely little lemon tree.

Of course, fruit and vegetables and beautiful flowers aren't the only benefits we get from gardening. There is a less obvious return that cannot be measured in kilos or flower show prizes, and that is the easing of tensions and stress that gardeners experience from getting out in the garden digging and caring for the plants.

I particularly do not care much for exercise for exercise sake but will cheerfully walk to the shops for a purpose or be out in the garden for hours to get a job done and I certainly need to clear our jungle. Look out for updated photos of the winter project.

