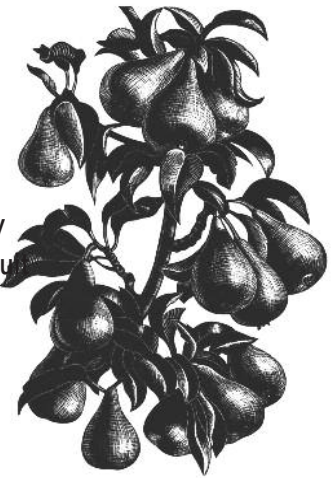# Planting a Fruit Tree

Raising your own fruit is very satisfying. You can raise a variety of fruit yourself for a reasonable price and a reasonable amount of effort.

   Plant early in the season, as soon as the soil has dried enough to crumble easily in your hand. A tree planted this spring will reward you with bushels of luscious fruit in the years to come, the first crop appearing perhaps as soon as next summer.
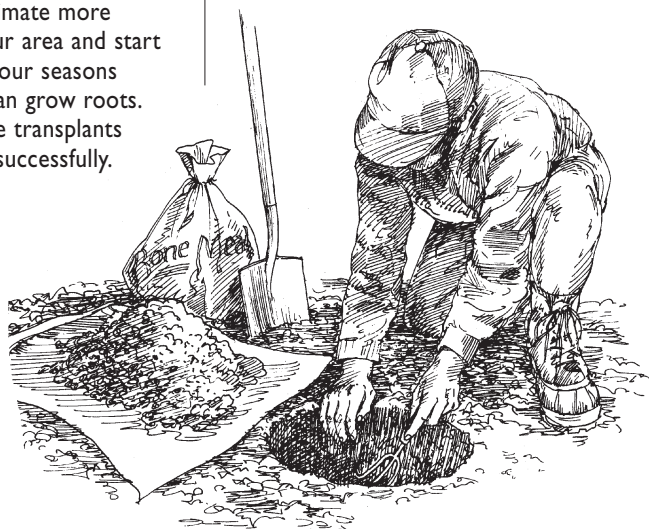

1 preparing the tree

   Fruit trees arrive to us bareroot and we plant them in pots. We have found that the trees, which are in cold storage, acclimate more quickly to our area and start to adjust to our seasons when they can grow roots. Also the tree transplants much more successfully.

2 preparing the site

Dig the hole 1 1/2 the width of the pot and the same depth. In the soil you have removed, add compost, or well rotted manure and one cup organic Fruit Tree or All Purpose fertilizer. Mix that all together outside of the hole. Check the tree for the graft, (a graft is a bulbous section on the lower tree where the tree has beed grafted onto a super hardy rootstock). Keep the graft above the soil line otherwise suckers will form.

3 planting and positioning

Planting can be confusing, early in the season when new roots are forming, the roots are not fully developed and the soil may fall off the tree. Be extra careful and gentle at this stage. Lay tree on its side and carefully slide the tree out of the pot. Some of the soil will fall away but try to keep it together as much as possible. Move it into the prepared hole, backfill with prepared soil, filling with water occasionally to eliminate air pockets. Leave a planting well around the base of the tree so water can concentrate around the root system. Fill the water well with mulch to the keep the soil evenly moist.

   If planted in a windy area, staking may be required. Staking is removed within one year and watch for bark problems— remove earlier if needed. All fruit trees need full sun and good airflow. Allow room around the tree for future pruning, spraying and maintainence.