

## **PLANTING & PRUNING TIPS:**

### **KEEP ROOTS DAMP WHILE PLANTING**

Organize your planting crew so that roots are exposed for only a few minutes while planting. Drying out of roots most often occurs at this step.

### **PRUNE TREES FOR PLANTING:**

Trim only broken or extra long roots. Do not prune or crowd roots to fit a small planting hole.

**BABY ALMONDS:** Top trees to 28-32 inches above the bud union and head back side branches to a single good bud.

**BABY FRUIT TREES** are usually topped to 18 to 24 inches. Be sure to leave at least one good bud on each side branch.

**YEARLINGS** may need to be headed higher to leave sufficient good buds to establish scaffold limbs. Leave at least two good buds per limb on yearling trees. Where trees are well branched, limbs may be left 4 to 6 inches long.

**WALNUTS** should be cut back to leave approximately 4-6 buds on the scion. Walnuts should be staked before growth starts. During the first summer, train the most vigorous shoot up the stake and pinch back other shoots.

### **PREPARE THE PLANTING HOLE**

Dig holes no deeper than necessary to plant trees without crowding roots and do not leave holes open for more than a couple of hours. Break down the sides of holes dug with an auger. Rootbound trees and winding roots have been observed following auger planting -- even in light, sandy soils.

### **PLANT AT THE RIGHT DEPTH**

After trees are planted and watered in they should be no deeper than they were in the nursery row. In planting trees on peach rootstock, too shallow is better than too deep. A good rule of thumb is to leave the topmost tiny root at ground level. On heavier soils, trees should be planted on 6 to 8 inch high mounds or berms.

Where prevailing winds are strong and constant, lean trees into the wind. Too much lean can encourage growth along only the top side of trees, however, by restricting bud development on the underside. Allow no more than 10 degrees of lean into the wind. Tilting a 30-inch tall tree 6 inches from vertical gives about 10 degrees of lean.

If a tree is too deep after planting, it's OK to gently pull it up to the proper height. In fact, pulling trees up a couple of inches before tamping soil is recommended to align roots in a downward direction. If a tree is planted too shallow, dig the tree out and start over. Adjustments should be made before watering in trees.

Do not place any fertilizer in the planting hole; it can injure tender young roots.

### **WATER TREES IN**