

## dare to plant bare root

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Column: Dare to plant bare root  
By Erin Koch

Spring is here, and it is time to think about planting. This year, consider trying something different and planting bare root. Bare root plants are sold as dormant specimens with the roots exposed rather than in soil. They are dug and harvested in the fall -- all you see is the branches and the root system, a pot is not necessary. They are stored through the winter in a cold storage facility that maintains a very high level of humidity. After the plants are shipped to garden centers it is their responsibility to force or "sweat" these dormant plants. "Sweating" is accomplished by providing a warm, humid environment required for bud break. When the buds begin to swell, the plants are ready for the landscape. There are lots of advantages of planting bare root nursery stock. Sherman Nursery offers these tips:

- Bare root plants cost less per plant compared to container material of comparable size. It's a great value.
- Bare root plants are lighter in weight and less bulky, resulting in the best economical freight expenses.
- Because bare root plants are shipped dormant, they can be planted in the ground as soon as the frost is gone. In some cases, this can take place up to a month earlier than potted plants.
- Bare root plants are healthy, viable and can adapt to marginal sites readily.
- Bare root plants are more environmentally friendly -- no recycling of the plastic pots and fewer greenhouse gas emissions from these plants.

So plan for spring and plant bare root. It's a great way to save on your landscape project. You can order bare root plants on-line, through catalogs and purchase them at a few specialty garden centers. Our bare root shipments are expected to arrive around mid-April and we hold them until mid-May. Call other area garden centers for availability.

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