



**David and Janet Gilbertson**

Mailing Address: 30636 435<sup>th</sup> Lane, Palisade, MN 56469

Business Address 30069 State Hwy 210, Aitkin, MN 56431

Web Site: [Gilbysorchard.com](http://Gilbysorchard.com) or [Gilbysnursery.com](http://Gilbysnursery.com)

E-mail: [gilbysorchard@frontier.com](mailto:gilbysorchard@frontier.com)

Business: 218-768-4347 • Cell: 218-670-0561

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## Care and Planting of Bare Root Apple trees

### Gilby's Tree Guarantee

Providing that you follow our planting and care instructions we will guarantee you trees through October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year you purchased the trees.

### Keys to success

#### Site selection

- Make sure your tree will get as close to full sun as possible.
- Make sure you have good drainage, at least 4 feet down from the surface
- I recommend that you have your soil tested; you can call your local Coop or U of M extension office and they will send you a test kit. This kit will give you instructions on how to take the soil sample. The U of M will provide you with exactly what you would need to do to amend your soil for growing apple trees.

#### Picking up your trees

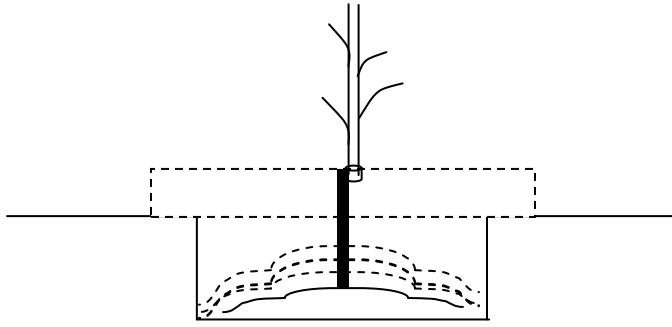
- When you pick up your bare root stock make sure the roots have not been exposed to the sun and wind.
- Bring a tarp with you, you will want to lay the trees on the tarp and cover with wet straw or burlap to keep the roots moist until planted.

#### Preparing the trees for planting

- Make sure you have no broken roots.
- Prepare root stimulator/water solution and soak your trees for 2 hours prior to planting. This will stimulate the hormones of the roots.
- .85 oz of Ferti-lome root stimulator per gallon of water

#### Digging the hole

- I would recommend digging a hole to fit the root
- Build a mound for the bottom of the root stock to sit on; make sure you have the mound built to the correct height. The bud union on a dwarfing tree will need to be at 2" above the ground to prevent the dwarfing tree from losing its dwarfing characteristics. On **(B-9 plant 1" from soil line or tree might runt out)**....Use a 2 by 4 to span the hole... See picture below.



- If you have a lot of clay, rough up the wall of the hole so it is not a glazed surface.

### **Planting and Caring Checklist....**

- Fill the hole with 2 gallons of water if ground is dry
- Set the tree on the base you have built and spread the roots out equal.
- Place support stake in hole 12" from the tree if you are planting a B9 or M26 rootstock. Unless you are on a trellis system.
- Back fill the hole.
- Place a piece of  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$ " hardware cloth around the tree to prevent any girdling.
- Drench your trees with the Ferti-lome solution about 2 quarts per tree. You can do this again in 2 weeks
- Add additional 2-3 gallons of water if the soil is dry
- Mulch drip line of tree... this is optimal. Prevent weed activity under the drip line of the tree
- Put white tree wrap on tree in November to protect tree from Sun Scald and girdling from meadow voles
- Take tree wrap off of tree after last frost or about Memorial day