

Bare Root Tree Planting Song

By Forest Baum, Sustainable Saratoga's Urban Forestry Project

(Verse 1, Hole size)

Here's a bare root tree planting song,
Repeat after me and you can't go wrong,
ONE FOOT DEEP and it's 4 FEET WIDE
So the roots and spread and the tree can thrive
You're one of the dirty, proud, the proud and few
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

(Verse 2, Roots and stakes)

WE ALL have to treat the baby ROOTS WITH CARE
Roots are so fragile when they're laying bare
Drive in the stakes BEFORE you set the tree
Then spread the baby roots out CAREFULLY
Pat 'em down gently, that's the thing to do
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

Chorus

**We're the planting crew, we plant the trees
To bring shade to our friends and our families
A most remarkable thing to do
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew**

(Verse 3, Flare)

When you first set the tree, you gotta check the height
Adjust the dirt under 'til you get it right,
The root flare shouldn't be too high or low
That gives your tree the best chance to grow.
Lay a rake across, check it's level and true
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

(Verse 4, Leader check)

Now the hole is dug, stakes and tree are set
An important item we can't forget
Call your leader over to your planting site,
Let them confirm that you're doing it right
Leader looks, and likes the view
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

(Chorus)



(Verse 5, Compost, Backfill)

Don't save the COMPOST pile for later
That stuff's not mulch, it's organic matter...
Mix it with soil, pat around the Roots
That Rick, black dirt gives your tree a Boost
Finish the backfill, dish it too
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

(Verse 6, Mulch volcano)

HERE'S another caution for a planting 'NO-NO'
Don't build a mounded MULCH VOLCANO
STAY 3 inches away from the trunk
If you pile it up, your tree is sunk
A three foot circle is the thing to do
We plant the trees, we're the planting crew

(Rap interlude)

We got talent, we got tools, now we understand the planting rules.

Stomp those dirt clods off your shoes, you joined up with the planting crew.

Hundreds of trees die each year in town, as much as we plant we're still losing ground

As old as 90, as young as 2, we got all ages on the planting crew

Any hound dog can dig a hole, a healthy tree must be our goal

(Chorus)