

# BARE ROOT MAGNOLIA

## PLANTING & CARE GUIDELINES

Bare root Magnolia are shrubs or trees that have been field-grown and then dug up for planting.

### Preparation

If you cannot plant immediately we recommend checking the root bag is damp every day, and keep the plants in a shady spot, out of direct sunlight and the wind. Planting at this time of the year gives the Magnolia the cool, damp weather they need to establish a root system before the hot summer weather when their energy will be put into foliage and fruiting. Soaking the roots for 30 minutes in a bucket of water before planting will be very beneficial to your new Magnolia.

If you haven't planted a tree or shrub before, you may find it easier to work with a partner the first time. The day you come to plant the Magnolia, keep the roots in a bucket of water until you come to place in the planting hole.

We suggest a planting distance of up to 2m (6ft) or more apart for these plants, especially if located in borders. They can be planted closer, but you will need to prune more regularly to keep them in hand so they do not become too large once they start growing away well. If planting as a specimen tree to be admired on its own, then a larger space may be required.

### Planting

After deciding where to site the Magnolia, dig a large hole, up to 30cm (12") deep and 60cm (24") wide. Place the topsoil in two piles and any subsoil in a separate pile. Be careful to keep the sides straight so that the hole isn't narrower at the bottom than the top. Lightly fork the edges and bottom of the hole to let the roots grow out more easily and provide air holes.

All of our Magnolia are grafted on a special root stock. It is important that the stock of the Magnolia is not planted too deeply and covered up with soil. It should be easy to see the graft mark, and keep this above the soil when planting. The correct depth will avoid the stock sending out shoots, place the plant in the hole to check it is deep enough so that all the roots will be covered, but the grafting point of the stock will be above the ground. Make the hole deeper as required.

Once the hole is finished the stake is ready to go in; this is done before planting to avoid root damage. The stake should be around 80cm (32") above the ground, and vertical rather than angled when the Magnolia is planted. Remove the plant from the hole to prevent damage when putting in the stake. One person holds the stake whilst someone else wields a suitable mallet or hammer to get it into the ground. Make sure it is both straight and secure. Place the Magnolia next to the stake with the stem being about 5-10cm (2"-4") away.

Next mix some good quality compost with some of the topsoil you have removed from the hole. We suggest a mix of 25-50% compost to topsoil, this will help the Magnolia establish. Now shovel some of this soil mix around the roots. Once the roots are covered, gently firm the soil to make sure it is tucked in around the roots. Shovel the rest of the top soil and firm again, and then add the subsoil at the top of the hole. Firm the soil again and now water the Magnolia. We suggest giving 1-2 buckets per plant straight after planting even if the soil is damp. Plant failures mainly occur due to lack of water and competition from weeds. It is important to keep the Magnolia well-watered every week with a heavy soaking on a regular basis, more so in hot dry weather so it does not dry out. Keep the area free of weeds that will compete for the plants water and feed. Mulching may be beneficial to retain moisture and keep weeds at bay.

Attach the rubber ties to the stake and then around the stem of the shrub/tree. The tie can be held in place by fitting tightly to the stake or fixing them to the stake with a nail. If rabbits are a problem in your area, wrap a spiral tree guard around the stem to avoid them nibbling its bark.

### TOP TIP

*Smaller Magnolia, (less than 3ft - 90cm tall), should not require a stake. However, in windy or exposed locations, staking may be beneficial.*

### After Care

The Magnolia will need frequent and large amounts of water until it is established.

As the plant grows and the stem thickens, check the rubber tie to see if it needs loosening.

Also check the stake after stormy weather to make sure it is still secure.

If planting in large patio planters, follow the steps above, except, you will be using a high quality Tub and Basket compost, and will not need to dig any holes!

It is especially important for patio Magnolia never to dry out, and get stressed. Plants should always be allowed to drain, but we suggest using a saucer with your pots in summer so that this can be kept full in hot weather to prevent the plants ever becoming dehydrated.

Feeding monthly, (or according to manufacturers recommendations), with a good quality liquid plant food will also be beneficial in the growing season, as the trees roots cannot grow to find more nutrients, so must have everything they need provided to their pots.

### TOP TIP

*Dig a channel around the edge of the dug area to stop water running away from the root area.*

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## FAQs

### These Magnolia look dead, why have they taken a long time to deliver?

Once we have your order, the plants are carefully lifted from the fields when the conditions for lifting (and replanting in your garden) are just right. This is in the winter months, so we have to be careful the ground is neither too wet or too frosty, as this would not be good for the plants. We normally therefore suggest on pre-orders that delivery in early March is normal as a guide. Once the Magnolia are safely gathered together in packs they are put into cold storage to prevent them coming in to growth before they reach you. The plants are not dead, simply dormant for winter.

### Why are the roots and packing material looking dry? Will the Magnolia survive shipping?

Provided you follow the instructions and soak the roots well before planting, these Magnolia will be just fine and thrive. We specifically keep the packing material and roots on the dry side so that the plants do not start to grow in transit, if it were kept damp, once removed from our cold storage they would want to start growing immediately, and this would be detrimental to them before planting. This is why Magnolia purchased elsewhere from a warm cosy store environment often fail – they get too warm, start growing and dehydrate in the shop.

### How far apart should my Magnolia be planted?

Spacing of shrubs/trees is again down to personal preference, and will depend on the space you have and how

compact you will keep the Magnolia by pruning. We would suggest a good amount of space between each shrub/tree would be 2m, remember they are going to be here for decades, so if allowed to reach full potential will need a little more space, especially when grown as a specimen tree set on its own. It is perfectly fine to plant them closer together for smaller more compact shrubs where you will keep on top of pruning. Don't forget they can also be grown in large patio tubs for several years.

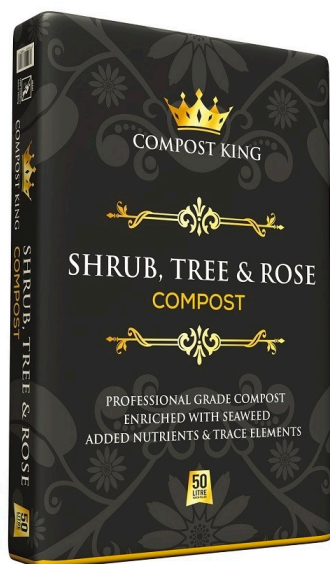
### My Magnolia have been planted for a few weeks, but I can't see any visible growth yet?

This is nothing to worry about, it is most likely the Magnolia are making fresh roots and simply taking their time before shooting. Because they are different varieties, you will also notice some shooting before others, they can start to grow at considerably different rates.

### How can I check if my Magnolia is still alive?

If you want to check a shrub/tree is healthy, a good tip is to scrape back a little bark just above the graft, that should be green underneath, which means the plant is healthy and simply taking its time to shoot back, it is unlikely, but if it is dry and corky in appearance the plant has sadly failed.

Please be patient with new Magnolia starting to shoot back, they may take a little time to show signs of growth and completing the bark test is important if you are in doubt.



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