

Planting bare-root stock in November is one of the most cost-effective and successful ways to establish new trees, shrubs, and roses in the garden.

Since the plants are dormant (asleep for winter), they suffer less from transplant shock, and the still-warm, damp soil allows their roots to settle in beautifully before spring growth begins.

Here is a guide to some of the best bare-root plants to install in your garden this November.

 Bare-Root Roses (The Classic November Plant)

November is the traditional, and arguably the best, time to plant bare-root roses. They are significantly cheaper than container-grown versions and establish a superior root system over the winter.

Category	Recommended Types/Varieties	Key Features for UK Gardens
Shrub & English Roses	'Gertrude Jekyll'	Highly fragrant, vibrant pink, very reliable.
	'Olivia Rose Austin'	Excellent disease resistance, tidy growth habit, long flowering season.
Climbing Roses	'The Generous Gardener'	Excellent for arches/pergolas, lovely pale pink colour, strong climber.
	'Wollerton Old Hall'	Beautiful apricot colour, strong scent, good for walls/fences.
Hybrid Tea Roses	'Peace'	A classic, large-flowered, two-tone yellow/pink.

Why Plant Now?	The graft union (the bump where the rose is joined to the rootstock) should be buried about 5cm below soil level to protect it from harsh weather. Planting now lets the roots knit into the soil before the plant wakes up.	
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Bare-Root Fruit Trees & Bushes

The entire dormant season (November to March) is open for planting, but getting them in the ground now gives them the maximum time to settle.

Type	What to Plant in November	Key Planting Tip
Top Fruit (Trees)	Apple, Pear, Cherry (on appropriate rootstocks for your space)	Ensure you plant the graft union (the slight swelling near the base) above the soil line. For varieties that aren't self-fertile, make a note of their pollination group to ensure they have a partner nearby.
Soft Fruit (Bushes/Canes)	Raspberry canes (Autumn-fruiting)	Plant the canes, then cut them down to a small bud above the soil. This encourages strong fruiting wood next season.
	Blackcurrants, Redcurrants, Gooseberries	Dig in plenty of well-rotted manure/compost to enrich the soil before planting.

	Rhubarb Crowns	Plant crowns so the top is just visible above the soil, and ensure the soil is well-drained.
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Bare-Root Hedging & General Shrubs

Bare-root hedging is exceptionally cheap and an ideal way to plant a native hedge or screen.

Plant Type	Recommended Choices	Use in the Garden
Native Hedging	Hawthorn (Crataegus)	Fast-growing, thorny, wildlife-friendly hedge.
	Beech (Fagus sylvatica)	A classic, formal hedge that holds its brown leaves through winter for excellent privacy.
	Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa)	Produces sloe berries for foraging; good, dense security hedge.
Ornamental Trees	Birch (Betula)	Known for its attractive, bright bark in winter.
	Rowan (Sorbus)	Beautiful berries and good autumn leaf colour.

Important Note on Planting Stone Fruits

A quick but important warning: **Plum, Cherry, and Apricot** trees (stone fruits) should **not** be pruned during the winter dormant season, as this makes them susceptible to **Silver Leaf**

Disease. You can plant them now, but save any major pruning until mid-summer.

Would you like a brief guide on the **step-by-step process** for planting a bare-root rose or tree?