

Setting fresh dug, bare-root strawberry plants with a hand tool

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1. Place the curved end of the tool near the base of the roots (Fig. 1)
2. Use the tool to “slide” the roots **straight down** into the hole (Figs. 2 & 3).
3. Don't be too forceful as the edge of the tool can cut or damage the roots.
4. The roots must not jammed-in or be "j-rooted" when set in the hole. This will cause the plant to grow poorly or die (Fig. 3).
5. Set the fresh dug deeply enough so that all of the roots are in contact with the soil beneath the plastic mulch, *but* not planted so deep that you have covered up the plants growing point (Fig. 4).
6. Close-ups of a hand tool for setting fresh dug, bare-root plants (Figs. 5, 6). The handle (about 4 in. length) is wrapped in duct tape with foam cushioning beneath.



Fig. 1. Curved end at base of roots



Fig. 2. Slide to roots straight down



Fig. 3. Setting plant to correct depth



Fig. 4. Don't cover the growing point



Fig. 5. The tool is 10 ½ inches in length



Fig. 6. Curved end comes in ½ inch.
Width is 1 5/8 inch.