



BAILEY<sup>®</sup> | BAREROOT

GRADING DEFINITIONS

# BAREROOT GRADING | TREES

When hand-grading bareroot plant material, we hold ourselves to a standard that has been dubbed the “Bailey Grade” in the industry. Comparably higher than the guidelines set by the American Standard for Nursery Stock, you can expect consistency, a well-trained leader, and a full tree or shrub.

- **WHIP (W)**

A whip may have no branches or a minimum number of lightly calipered branches. It is likely to come from a field with 1-year tops.

- **LIGHT-BRANCHED TREES (LB)**

Great for lining out, this grade is missing a branch at the node and is not yet symmetrically branched.

- **ONE-YEAR TOP (1Y)**

Another designation within light-branched (as well as branched) trees, one-year top liners have a younger top with viable dormant buds that train as a leader or produce well-spaced branches with a root system that is at least 2 years old.

- **BRANCHED TREES**

With tops that have been growing for at least two years, these trees have a straight central leader with symmetrical lateral branching, which is a strong quality for garden centers and growers.

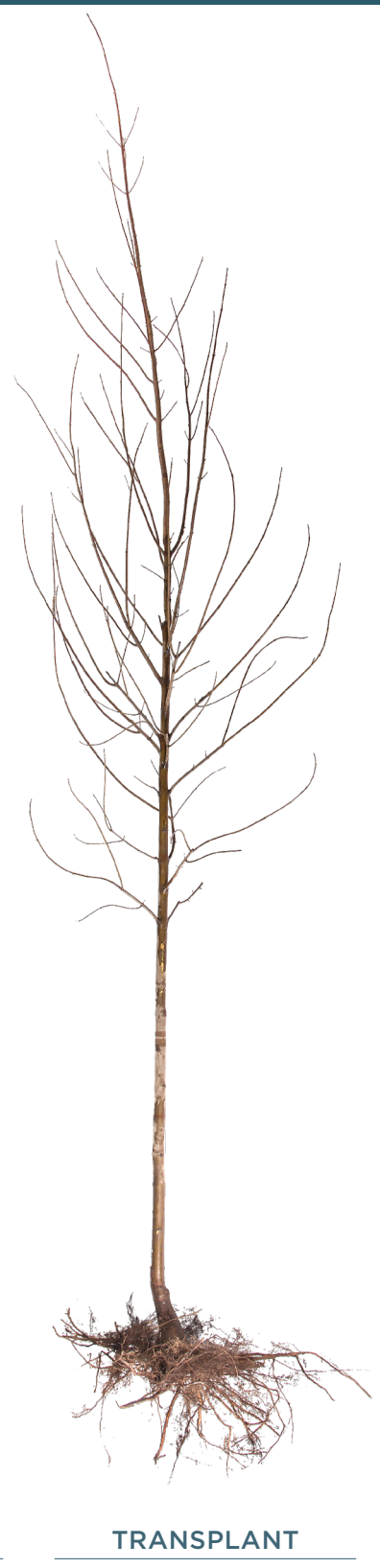
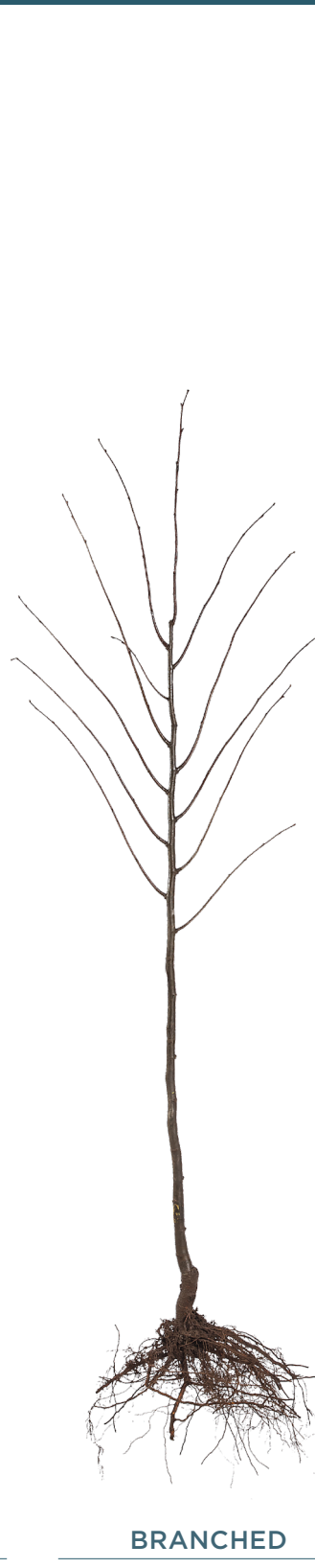
- **TRANSPLANT TREES (TT)**

Typically larger in size by the time of purchase, these trees have been growing at our Minnesota facility for a minimum of four years, where we consistently prune their root systems and space to encourage a compact, fibrous root system, larger caliper, a heavier head, and better branching.

## TIPS FOR GROWERS:

- #1 Heavy and #1 grades are typically fuller trees with even heads.
  - All #1 Heavy trees will have 6 or more branches and #1 grades will have 4-5 branches
- Select and Heavy Select grades are those that have a larger trunk caliper and a combination of branching heft for the grade of the crop.
- #1 Light and #2 grades are less full trees that are well-suited to lining out. They may have uneven heads or shorter and fewer branches that can be pruned and grown to a larger, more retail-salable size





# BAREROOT GRADING | SPECIALTY TREES

In addition to grading by branching and height, some varieties are graded by head size and caliper.



**CLUMP**

Heritage® River Birch



**MULTI-STEM**

Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry



**WEeping**

Weeping Pussy Willow

- **CLUMP TREES (CL)**

Having 3 or more separate canes that were planted together, with a fused root system. Graded by height and the upper branching of 2 of the canes. The third cane may be shorter but close in height, symmetrical, and with a similar caliper.

- **MULTI-STEM TREES (MS)**

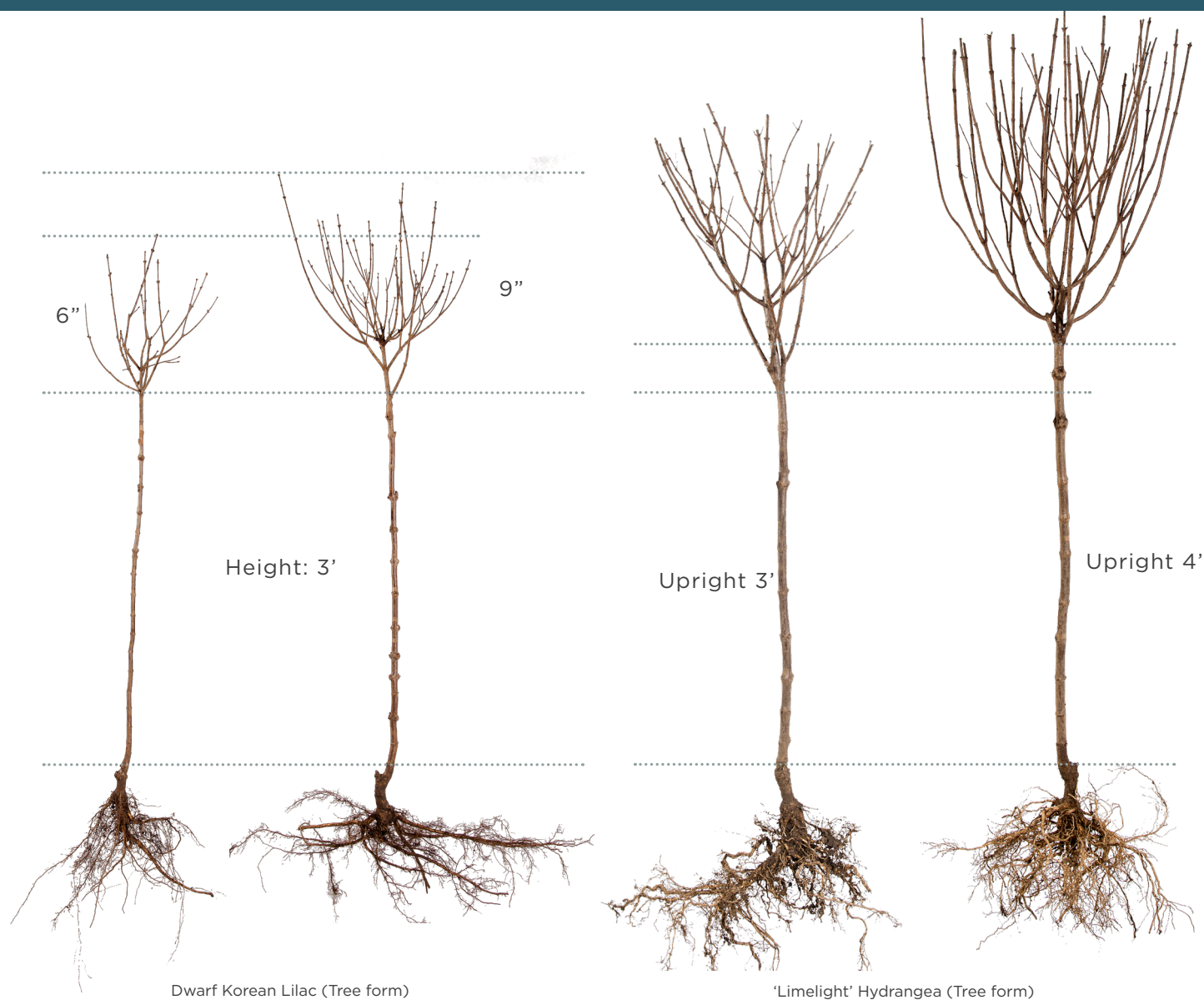
Having 3 or more canes growing from one root, typically the result of a cutback. Graded similarly to branched trees, averaging the branching of all canes.

- **GRAFTED WEEPING TREES**

The first grade is the height of the standard such as 3'. The second grade is for the weeping branches. Examples include *Caragana*, *Prunus* subspecies, and *Salix pendula*.

- **#1 Heavy (H) & #1 Grades:** Caliper at or above 7/8" with even branching
- **#1 Light (LT) & #2 Grades:** Caliper less than 7/8" and uneven branching





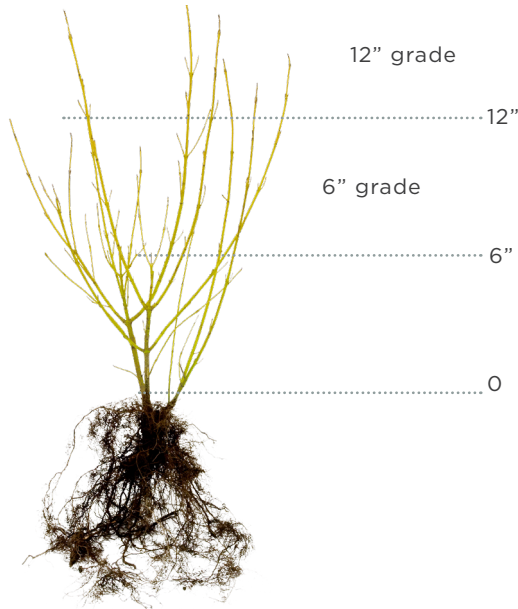
### TOP GRAFTED & UPRIGHT TREES

Graded by the standard height between 3' to 6' and by the size of the head (crown graded like a shrub). Typically, *Syringa* varieties are top grafted onto standard understock leader, whereas *Hydrangea paniculata* varieties are pruned into whips.

- **#1 Heavy (H) and #1:** Have a head of at least 8"

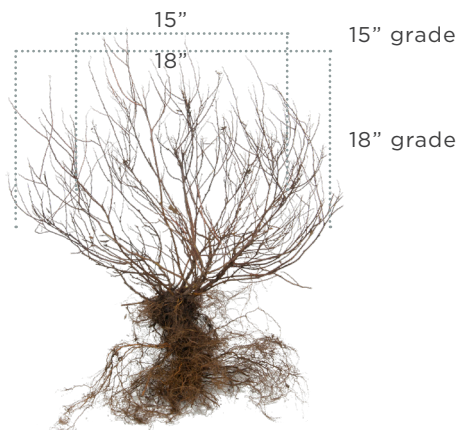
# BAREROOT GRADING | SHRUBS

Our shrubs and roses are also graded at the “Bailey Grade,” above the American Standard for Nursery Stock. These categories of plants are either graded by cane height and heft, crown size, or width.



## CANE GRADES

- Each shrub graded by cane height must have at least 2 stems above its designated grade. For example, a 6” grade requires that 2 canes be well above the 6” mark. Even if a plant has the required height for a certain grade, if its heft is not greater than the lower designation, it will be downgraded to the lower grade.
- Cane grades have the following designations: 3”, 6”, 9”, 12”, 15”, 18”, 2’, 2½’, 3’.



## WIDTH GRADES

Like cane-graded shrubs, those graded by width must surpass its corresponding grade designation, but also must be supported by the height of one grade lower. For instance, an 18” width grade must have a height of 15” or it would be downgraded to a 15” width grade. Examples include Jade Carousel® Barberry and Sundrop™ Spirea.



## CROWN GRADES

This grade not based on specific measurements, but instead is designated relative to the overall crop and amount of bud break expected. Designations include #1, Medium, and #2. Examples include: *Buddleia*, *Caryopteris*, *Hydrangea arborescens*, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, certain honeysuckle, Tiger Eyes™ Sumac, *Sambucus* and *Vitis*.

# | ROSES - CROWN GRADES

Like crown graded shrubs, rose grading is relative to the amount of bud break that is expected, but it also requires a minimum number of canes.



- **GRADE #1**

Has a minimum of 3 canes that are branched no higher than 3" from a well-balanced crown.

- **GRADE #1½**

A minimum of 2 canes plus help that are branched no higher than 3" from the well-balanced crown.

- **GRADE #2**

A minimum of 1 cane of substantial caliper plus help



# BAILEY | BAREROOT

MINNESOTA • OREGON • WASHINGTON • ILLINOIS • GEORGIA

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1325 Bailey Road, St. Paul, MN 55119

P: 651 459 9744 • 800 829 8898

F: 651 459 5100 • 800 829 8894

[www.BaileyNurseries.com](http://www.BaileyNurseries.com)

[plants@baileynurseries.com](mailto:plants@baileynurseries.com)