

TREE PLANTING SPECIFICATION

Bare-root or plug trees

TIMING OF PLANTING

1. Bare-root stock should be planted when trees are dormant – from November through to April.
2. Plug plants can be planted all year round, but it is better to stick to the planting season noted above.

CARE OF PLANTS

1. Take care when handling planting stock to ensure that no damage occurs.
2. Take all practical measures to prevent drying out of plant roots during lifting, storage, transit and planting operations.

GROUND PREPARATION

1. Choose your planting location carefully to ensure services are not affected in the short-term or as the tree matures.
2. Make sure you have the agreement of the landowner and that those involved in maintenance of the land are aware of the planting location.
3. Mark out the proposed planting positions with canes or spray-paint.
4. Break up any compacted topsoil to full depth.
5. Remove undesirable material, including stones, roots, grass or other debris.

PLANTING

1. Roots of all plants should be watered prior to planting.
2. Push the blade of the spade fully into the ground.
3. At ninety degrees to first cut, push the blade of the spade fully into the ground to form a T-shape.
4. Push down on the spade handle to lift and part the ground.
5. Place the tree and all of the roots into the hole created.
6. Lift out the spade and ensure the tree is upright and root collar is level with surface.
7. Heel in the plant well.
8. Install cane and spiral guard or stake and treeshelter to protect the tree.
9. Remove any damaged, weak or diseased stems and branches with sharp secateurs.
10. Scatter a handful of general-purpose fertiliser around base of tree.
11. Install a layer of organic mulch or a mulch mat around the base of the tree.
12. Water the new plants well.

MAINTENANCE

1. Scatter a handful of general-purpose fertiliser around base of tree at the start of each growing season.
2. Ensure the tree is well watered through the spring and summer, particularly if it has been dry.
3. Keep a 1m diameter weed-free area around the stem of the tree through the growing season.
4. At least once a year check spiral/ cane or treeshelter/ stake to ensure they are firm and upright.
5. Check for damage by pests and ensure tree protection measures are adequate.