



Your tree will grow to become part of your site and in a well-chosen location, with good planting and aftercare it will thrive, benefiting the ecosystem, wider environment and providing amenity to the site. Time invested now in looking after your tree, and planting it well, will save time and effort in future years. Below are a few of the considerations when planting your tree.

Storing

You should plant your tree as soon as possible after receiving them but if you are not planting immediately place it in a cool area with moist soil or wet straw covering the root ball.

Planting

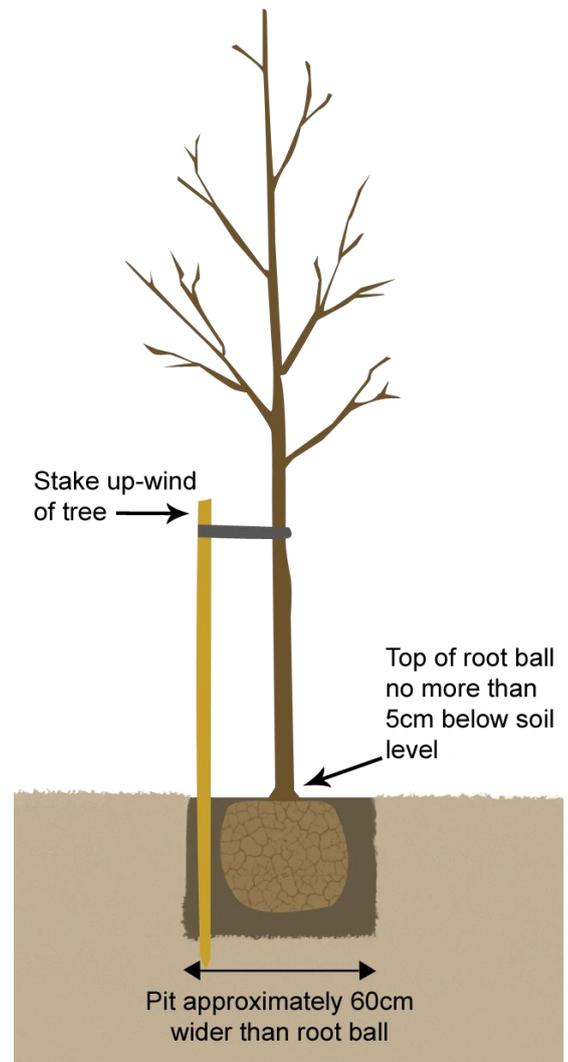
- Dig a square pit about 60cm (2ft) wider than the size of the root ball. If you can, remove the turf around the pit too, to reduce competition from grass and weeds.
- Loosen the soil in the bottom of the pit and scarify the sides with a spade or fork to eliminate compaction and improve drainage.
- Knock the stake firmly into the bottom of the pit, as close as possible to the root ball without damaging it, on the up-wind side of the tree so the tree pulls away from the stake. The prevailing wind comes from the west, so the stake should normally be planted on the west side.
- Keep the hessian wrapping on the root ball to prevent damaging the roots and place the tree in the hole.
- Do not plant too deep - the top of the root ball should not be more than 5cm (2 inches) deeper than ground level. If the hole is too deep, remove the tree and add more soil.
- Backfill the hole finishing with a gentle incline to the trunk of the tree to encourage water to drain into the root ball rather than away from it.
- Loosely attach the tree to the stake with the tie, nailing the tie to the stake.
- If you are able to, apply mulch around the tree, but keep 10cm (4 inches) clear around the trunk to prevent rotting. Mulch, such as leaf litter, shredded bark, or wood chips, help to conserve soil moisture and reduce competition for nutrients from weeds.
- Water the tree well – a large bucket or two watering cans worth.

Aftercare

Water regularly. In spring and summer water your new tree as often as possible, it will need about 30 litres (6 gallons) of water per week. To reduce evaporation, water early or late in the day if possible. Keep your eyes open for symptoms of drought which include small or fewer leaves, yellow or brown leaves, dropping leaves and cracking bark.

Keep about 1 metre around the tree grass and weed-free to reduce competition for water and nutrients. Mulching the area around the tree is effective at keeping grass and weeds down, but some hoeing or hand weeding may be required. Do not mulch up to the trunk; leave a gap to prevent rotting.

Check ties and stakes. High winds, frost and moles can loosen the roots or soil around the tree, making it unstable. Ties may need to be adjusted or stakes replaced. As the trees grow the tie can constrict the trunk, and may need loosening or removing. The tree should have established itself after 2 – 3 years and the tie and stake can be removed.



Things to remember

- Place the stake in the hole before the tree, to avoid damaging the roots.
- Do not plant the tree too deep and loosen the soil in the pit.
- Leave the hessian wrapping on the root ball.
- Do not fill soil and mulch up to the trunk of the tree.
- Water the tree well after planting.
- Take good care of your new tree to help it resist disease, drought and vandals.

Links & further reading

[Trees Are Good: Guides on planting and management](http://www.treesaregood.org) | www.treesaregood.org

[Urban Tree Foundation: Planting](http://www.urbantree.org) | www.urbantree.org

[Forestry Commission: Tree care guide](http://www.forestry.gov.uk) | www.forestry.gov.uk

[ChurchCare: Works to trees](http://www.churchcare.co.uk) | www.churchcare.co.uk

The trees have been supplied by Wyevale Nurseries: www.wyevalenurseries.co.uk

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