



## When to plant a tree.

Anytime from November to late February is a good time as this is when the tree is dormant (lost its leaves for the winter). Always avoid really wet, windy or frosty/frozen conditions when planting. You should try to plant your tree as quickly as you can after receiving it to give it the best chance of survival.

Trees roots are meant to be in the soil and don't do well out of it... even with some compost around it, so limit the exposure to the air, keep your tree roots well covered and damp and plant the tree as quickly as you can, to give it the best chance of survival. The longer the tree is out of the ground the less likely it is to grow into a stunning tree capturing carbon, be a home to your garden wildlife and create wonderful oxygen for you to breath.

It so important that the roots of the tree don't dry out. If it needs to be stored for a couple of days, put lots of soil around the roots, leave in a damp plastic bag in a cool place. If you need to store it for longer you should heel it in to the ground by covering the roots with soil or planting it in a good sized pot.

## How to plant your tree

Dig a hole large enough for the roots to spread out evenly (about 1/3 bigger than the size of the roots).

You will notice a muddy mark/colouration change between where the roots ends and the tree bark starts. This mark needs to match the ground level. It's important to note; too deep and your tree will drown in the soil, too shallow and it will dry out and die.

Ensure the soil at the bottom of the holes is loose and place your tree in the hole so the roots spread out, make sure the roots aren't bent or squashed in the hole and the muddy mark sits at ground level.

Slowly backfill with loose soil, gently shake the tree up and down to work the soil around the roots, firm around the tree in stages by treading down gently with the heel of your boot.

Firmly press a stake into the ground next to the base of the tree and lift the tree shelter over the tree and stake, making sure it just fits in to the soil.

Give the tree a good water, not to flood the tree just to make the soil nicely damp. Check on the tree in a few days see if any soil needs adding. Try adding a much around the tree, (some damp cardboard with several handfuls of bark chippings, cut grass etc. on top, this will help suppress weeds and give your tree will chance to grow and establish.

## Aftercare

Through the summers remember to give your tree a regular water if it's been dry for a few days. If possible try to collect rain water in a water butt, or use your washing up water, and also remember to water in the evening so it doesn't evaporate and the tree has time to drink.

Weed around the tree to stop the tree being choked and out competed by weeds and replace the mulch when its looking thin. Try not to use pesticides or herbicides. The tree will thank you for it as its needs microrizonal activity (cleaver soil science) to get the nutrients its needs.

## Where to plant – things you should consider

The sapling you have is small, but just think and consider what size it will grow to, and how big it will be when it reaches maturity, will you have enough room?

- Think about where you are planting in relation to your house, your neighbours, and any other buildings.
- Some roots and branches may spread beyond the boundaries of your property and trees can cause structural damage.
- Generally, it's not recommended to grow trees in pots, they need room to grow and can outgrow a pot quickly. And, then they will suffer stress if moved when they are bigger.
- Trees can cause structural damage so it is vital to consider anything the roots might disturb or where limbs could fall and break things.
- The canopy (top of the tree and its branches) may eventually spread beyond the boundaries of your property, and roots could stretch even further, so be aware of building foundations and underground services like water pipes and broadband cables.