

How to... Plant a Tree

Part of the Pacific Nurseries
'How to...' series

Planting new trees is fairly straightforward but its important to follow a few guidelines to get the most from your garden's new addition. By planting it properly and bearing in mind root health, weather, soil conditions and aftercare, you can give your tree the best start possible.

Be prepared!

Do some soil preparation (as far out from the planting spot as is feasible, up to 3m) before you plant to maximise air, nutrients and to promote good growing conditions. Loosen the soil - this will make it easier to work with and improve drainage. Drainage can be further assisted by planting on a slightly raised area, say 12" high if excessive moisture is a concern. We recommend adding Peat Free Tree and Shrub compost. Add some fertiliser, organic matter and lime. We have some excellent products in-store - ask for advice.

Guide to planting

Carefully remove your new tree from its container or wrapping. Loosen out and spread the roots.

Dig a planting hole - no deeper than the roots, but up to three times their diameter.

Undertake soil preparation as outlined above. Ensure your soil is not compacted. Scrape away the top layers of compost and ensure that the point where the roots flare out are near the soil surface.

Position the tree to best effect and place it in the planting hole and refill with soil, making sure you have plenty of soil between and around all the roots so there are no air pockets.

Firm the soil gently, avoiding compacting the soil into a hard mass.

Our tree planting kit: 10L bag compost, tree tie, tree stake and a sachet of rootgrow for £10

Tree care

It is important to ensure your tree is always well watered down to the roots. You can also lay nutrient-rich mulch around the base of the tree (avoiding the trunk so you don't rot the bark).

Planting too deep is a common error so ensure you don't dig too far down.

Enjoy the fruits of your labour and take good care of your new tree through careful watering. This planting process is equally effective for large shrubs.



Q: When should you plant a new tree?

A: Between October and April avoiding periods when the ground is frozen.

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The team at Pacific Nurseries are highly experienced. As plant growers and the supplier of thousands of plants to over 100 garden centres in the region, we are well placed to advise you on any of your gardening questions. Please ask us for any help you need.