

Planting a single tree

Planting position

- It's important to think about the final size and spread of the trees and how you will use the site as the trees grow. Avoid planting under existing trees, as shade and lack of water will seriously restrict growth.
- Think about where you're planting in relation to your house, your neighbours, and any other buildings.
- Consider the ultimate size that the tree will grow to (see tree selection list). Will it still fit the space you have in mind?
- Some roots and branches may spread beyond the boundaries of your property and trees can cause structural damage. Be aware of places where limbs may fall or roots might grow.

Planting

- Dig a hole, which is substantially bigger than the spread and depth of roots on the tree to be planted.
- Break up and loosen the bottom and sides of the hole, to improve drainage and to encourage future root development.
- Position the tree so that the ground level at the stem will correspond to that at which it was growing in the nursery, this can be recognised by a dark mark left on the tree at ground level.
- Back fill the pit preferably with help to hold the tree in position.
- Firm down the soil around the roots by treading. If you tree needs support push a cane parallel with the tree (not too close to avoid damaging roots) and loosely tie it onto the cane with string if needed.
- Water the pit area well.

Weeding

- Weeding is the most important step in giving your trees the right start. Keeping a 1 metre diameter around the tree clear of weeds and grass for the first 2-3 years will reduce competition for moisture and nutrients.
- You can suppress weeds with mulch, such as bark chips. Apply it to a depth of around 10cm to prevent it being blown away or dispersed and top it up annually.

Watering

- Your trees will adapt to natural conditions so shouldn't need watering, especially as it encourages roots to grow up towards the soil surface rather than down towards groundwater. If there is a particularly long dry spell and you feel watering is necessary, saturate the ground to ensure water soaks deep into the soil.