

Planting Guidelines for Smaller Plants

Time of Planting

Bare root and rootballed plants should be planted when they are dormant between mid November and mid April. Container grown plants should ideally be planted during the same period but they can also be planted during the spring and summer providing they are adequately watered.

Ground Preparation

Weed growth should be cleared prior to planting either by spraying with an effective herbicide or by other means. Where planting a hedge the ground should ideally be dug over or rotovated prior to planting. This will make the job of planting considerably easier. If the soil is poor then Tree and Shrub Planting Compost or peat should be incorporated with the soil. Bonemeal can also be added to provide additional feed for the new plants.

Planting - Bare root plants

Once the plants have been delivered to site, they should preferably be planted straight away or heeled-in (the roots covered with soil in a shallow trench), but if necessary they may be stored in the plant bag they came in, out of the frost and direct sunlight (e.g. in a shed), for a maximum of 7 days and after this they must either be planted or heeled-in. Never allow the trees roots to dry out.

While planting, leave the plants in the bag to protect them from drying out in the wind, removing them one at a time as you plant them.

Plants up to about 2ft high can be planted into a suitable notch made by a spade, provided the root system is not too large. When using this method it is important that the plant is planted to the same depth as it has been growing at in the nursery and is well firmed up in the ground using the heel of your boot to ensure the notch is properly closed up. If this is not done the notch may well open after a frost or during dry weather in the summer, exposing the roots and leading to death of the plant.

The notch planting method described above is only suitable for smaller plants where the root system is not too big. For bigger plants dig a small hole large enough to take the roots, backfill and firm up making sure the plant is at the correct depth.

Planting – Rootball and Container plants

Rootballed plants and some containerised plants have the roots wrapped in hessian and possibly wire. Do NOT remove these! They are designed to protect the root system from damage during planting and they will rot away naturally after a few months. Removing the hessian may damage the fine root fibres.

In the case of container plants, carefully remove the container prior to planting.

Dig a hole a little wider and deeper than the pot. Care must be taken not to plant any deeper than the current pot level and to ensure that the soil around the plant is well firmed up. Water in well.

Weed Control

For plants to achieve maximum growth and survival rates, weed control is very important. There are a number of methods each suited to different situations, including careful use of herbicides pre-planting and/or post planting, mulching, weed suppression material laid on the surface and hand or mechanical weeding. Please ask for details.