



ROOTBALL PLANTS

Planting & Aftercare

Soil Preparation

Dig a hole that is no deeper than the roots, but up to three times the diameter of the root system if the side or base of the planting hole are compacted ; spike the soil with a fork before planting. Do not dig over the base as the disturbed soil will settle - resulting in the tree sinking too deep after planting. A tree or shrub should never be planted deeper than the original soil level.

If you need to improve the soil condition you can add garden compost, tree and shrub compost or a small amount of bonemeal. If using bonemeal, mix well with the soil or compost and water in before planting.

Delivery of Root Ball plants

Water thoroughly before planting, you can keep without planting for 24 hours but they must be protected from drying winds. With bare-root trees, always soak the roots before planting.

Planting of Root Ball plants & trees

Do not remove the hessian sack, this will decompose over time, simply loosen around the stem of the plant. Place the tree / shrub in the planting hole and refill carefully, replacing soil between and around all the roots to eliminate air pockets. Water again after planting.

Trees can be staked to help anchor the roots whilst allowing the trunk to flex in the wind.

Aftercare

Aftercare is more important with specimen plants and trees as they can take longer to establish.

- **Watering:** Drought stress is common with newly planted trees, particularly when specimens have a large root ball. Dry windy conditions even in the Winter are especially likely to lead to water shortages so correct watering is essential. Evergreen root ball plants often defoliate or the leaves will turn yellow when planted, just increase the watering and they will re-sprout in the spring.
- **Weeding:** Keep a vegetation free circle around the tree to avoid competition for water from weeds, lawn & other plants.
- **Mulch:** Apply a layer of mulch around the tree/shrub in late winter, which will help to conserve moisture & suppress weeds. Make sure you leave a collar of 10cm around the stem of the tree to prevent mulch causing bark to rot.