



Cleveland
Nursery

PLANTING TREES IN YOUR GARDEN

Every site and situation in your garden will be different, eg. sandy soil or clay soil, and each soil requires different watering techniques. Sandy soil is free draining and needs more moisture, clay soil is heavy and needs less water. First determine what situation you have and prepare accordingly.

1. The planting hole needs to be dug twice as wide but the same depth as the root ball, and must be the same height as the existing soil once planted. Avoid digging the hole deeper and backfilling as the plant can sink when you water the root ball and will become lower than the existing surface, which will then be inundated with water in Winter. If more soil is added over the top this will encourage roots to come to the surface. This can girdle or strangle the tree which in years to come may be fatal. A root ball constantly wet will result in the death of the tree/plant due to lack of oxygen.
2. Remove the tree from the bag or pot. Gently tease out the bottom and sides of the root ball. In the event of a tree being pot-bound, which we avoid, lay the tree on its side and cut 20mm off the bottom of the root ball. Slice down with a sharp knife along the sides, tease out any loose soil from the top of the root ball to identify the largest root. When planting this should be just below the surface.
3. With a hole dug to correct proportions, place the tree into the hole and backfill with soil taken from the hole, which should be friable. If you have heavy clay soil, you could build a raised mound to plant into to help eliminate waterlogging of the root ball. You can mix a little compost with the backfill first if necessary, but try and work with the existing soil you have. For clay soil problems, work gypsum into your soil to improve drainage, and good compost to sandy soil to help retain moisture. Water in well by a hose and expel any air pockets from the soil.
4. Fertilizing at the time of planting is generally unnecessary as the tree should have sufficient nutrients in the mix, but fertilizing several months later is beneficial when the roots will be starting to grow into the surrounding ground. A soil and root stimulant such as Seasol can be applied at planting time to help ease transplant shock and encourage healthy root growth. Staking hopefully is not necessary, but if the need arises use two to three stakes and only tie with hessian webbing or a product which will rot away after a few months or when the tree becomes stable.
5. While establishing, water should be concentrated on the root ball area, and not the surrounding soil, as the root ball will dry out first. Trees from our Nursery are watered daily in Summer, each bag is simply filled up to the top, therefore water your tree daily when hot for the first two weeks, then every second day for several months, and weekly after that. Remember watering should be altered to suit your particular soil, and current weather conditions.
6. Mulch around the tree taking care to keep it back from the trunk.

***Please contact the Nursery on (08) 8339 1595 if you are still unsure,
or in need of any further information. We have supplied you a basic guide.***

With a little care trees can be planted successfully all year round.