



Trees sold in containers can be planted at any time of year. However, spring and autumn should be preferred to high summer. Rootballs can only be planted from November—March.

1. Dig a planting hole the same depth as the pot or rootball of the tree and loosen the soil in the bottom. The planting hole should be wide enough to leave a 5cm-10cm gap when the tree is placed inside; however, if your soil is poor it is advisable to make the hole larger. Some authorities believe a square hole is better!
2. Remove the pot and place the tree in the hole so that it is upright and the surface of the compost is flush with, or slightly raised above, the soil level of your site. You should not remove the hessian bag or wire cage from a rootballed tree, though you may wish to untie the knot at the collar. If your soil is poor it may be advisable to sprinkle mycorrhizal fungi around the rootmass, to improve establishment.
3. Mix the planting compost, (or home made compost), 50:50 with the soil removed from the hole and use the mix to refill around the tree, firming gently but firmly. Remove excess soil, do not bank the soil up over the collar or graft union of the tree as this can cause rotting and be fatal.
4. Place the stake at an angle to the tree to avoid penetrating the rootmass and knock in until it is firm, ensuring the top of the stake is adjacent to the tree. Tie the tree firmly to the stake using a tree tie, we advise using a buckle tie as this can be adjusted if required and has a spacer to avoid the stake chaffing the tree.
5. Container trees carry sufficient nutrients to last the season but growmore or similar fertilizer may be sprinkled around the base of the tree if required.
6. If you are planting during warm or dry weather water several times a week; for the first few months after planting you should also water during hot and dry weather. A tree planted in the autumn should need little, if any, watering after it has been planted.
7. The stake should stay in place for approx. 12 months, after which time it can be removed.

