

TREE PLANTING GUIDE

Step 1

- Dig hole slightly larger than the outside of the rootball (or bag) of the tree.
- Allow space for support stakes if required - please let the team know if you will be needing some stakes with your trees.

Step 2

- Check the hole is large enough to fit the rootball of the tree including a support stake either side.
- Now is a good time to install the support stakes if required - avoiding damage to the tree. Staking will protect the rootball from movement so the tree can establish in its environment.
- Position the stake/s on the prevailing wind side - this will save the tree rubbing on the stakes. Make sure the stakes are on the edge of the hole and driven in, leaving 1-1.2m from the top of the hole.

Step 3

- Place the tree in the hole - check roots are gently teased. Position dominant or branching foliage facing the prevailing wind direction, this encourages even growth and shape of the tree.
- Make sure the top of the rootball is level with or slightly above the existing ground.
- If the ground or the soil is heavy - sit the tree higher in the hole. Fill the hole with loose soil, add mulch and fertiliser where required.
- Firm up the soil by trampling around the edge of the rootball and gently mound creating a shallow ring around the base of the tree. Make sure there is no more than 25mm of soil covering the top of the rootball.

Step 4

- Using a webbing tape, rubber tube or ties, secure the trunk of the tree to the stake/s. Loop a figure eight around the trunk of the tree and then tie off to the stake - this protects the rootball from movement.

Step 5

- Finally water the tree causing the soil to settle and minimise plant stress.
- During the summer months, it is important in the first year to saturate the tree twice a week where possible, especially during dry, hot and windy weather.

Step 6

- To reduce the weeds and also retain moisture, adding mulch or bark around the base of the tree has lasting benefits.
- Organic or longterm fertilisers can be applied during planting and growing months. Please let the team know you would require some slow release fertiliser tablets with your trees.

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