

GREEN MILE TREES

Planting

It is really important to prepare the site carefully.

The planting site needs to be free-draining. If it is liable to water logging or impeded drainage then the drainage **MUST** be improved before planting. There are a number of ways of doing this: for example, see the advice on the RHS website, rhs.org.uk.

Firstly, soak the root ball/container thoroughly before planting.

Prepare the site by digging it over deeply, and loosening the soil, breaking up clay soils as you go, so that air can penetrate to the roots. If the site has been compacted, then ideally prepare an area at least 6ft across, breaking up any clods of soil into smaller crumbs.

Dig out a planting pit, at least a handbreadth wider than the root ball, and fork over the bottom of the planting pit. It should be deep enough so that the tree can be planted to the same depth as it was in the nursery.

Place the root ball carefully in the pit. **DO NOT REMOVE WIRE OR HESSIAN.** If the tree has been supplied bare rooted then remove the polythene wrapping. Or, if a container grown tree, remove the container, place root system carefully in the pit.

Backfill the hole, firming carefully, ensuring no air pockets. The tree should be planted to the same depth as in the nursery/container.

Support the tree firmly, using one or two stakes driven well in, avoiding damage to the roots. (The stakes may need to be at an angle). Secure with a straining bar or pliable tree ties, being careful to avoid chafing or other damage to the bark.

For more information on staking, please refer to the Help & FAQ section on our website.

Aftercare

Attention to watering is ESSENTIAL for the first two growing seasons.

Plants should be watered in well after planting to settle the soil round the roots.

Up to half a meter from the stem, weeds should be kept down, by hoeing or mulching. A mulch of organic matter, such as composted bark, will also help suppress weeds and keep the root run cool.

The plant **MUST** be watered regularly. In hot, windy weather a large tree can use gallons of water per day. The whole rooting area should be soaked **AT LEAST** once per fortnight, during the growing season, up to every other day on dry land in hot weather. A shower of rain does little to restore soil moisture levels in the summer time. Scraping the top few inches of soil away with a trowel in a small sampling area may give guidance. As a rule of thumb, it needs 25 litres of water to soak a square meter of soil to sufficient depth.

Stakes and ties should be checked regularly for chafing or other damage to the bark. These should become redundant after 2 growing seasons and should then be removed. Very large trees in exposed areas may need guying. We feel that this is a job for a professional.

Guard against rabbit damage if there is a risk of it. A **LIGHT** application of a general fertiliser may be beneficial early in the year.

Field Grown Trees

Trees should be planted as soon as possible after despatch.

If they need to be stored for up to a few days, keep them in a cool place and avoid letting the trees become frosted. For longer storage heel them in, that is, bury the roots, in a trench for instance, in a sheltered spot with the root ball well covered with soil. Prevent the tree roots from drying out.

Container Grown Trees

Our extensive range of container-grown stock is available for planting all year round.

The container should never be allowed to dry out while waiting to be planted. In winter time this should not be a problem; however, in warm, dry, or windy weather plants may need a good watering every day.

Delivery

We have always offered a kerbside delivery service and our drivers have always done their best to put your plants where you want them.

While we will do all we can to continue this service, **we can only guarantee a kerbside delivery (front drive, front lawn)**. We only deliver using one person and as you probably know, our larger trees can be heavy and bulky to move around.

Our Guarantee

Our guarantee is to supply you with healthy plants at all times.

The above guidelines must be adhered to. We do not offer any guarantees for plants once they have left our care, as we cannot take liability for circumstances such as soil conditions, weather conditions or poor practice.

If you have an issue with a plant which has been supplied by Green Mile Trees, please contact us as soon as possible, within 12 months of purchase.

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