

HOW TO PLANT & CARE FOR YOUR FRUIT TREE

PLEASE PLANT YOUR BARE ROOT TREE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

ROOTS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRY OUT, SO IF YOU AREN'T ABLE TO PLANT WITHIN A DAY OR TWO IT IS BEST TO 'HEEL' THE TREE INTO THE GROUND TEMPORARILY - ENSURING THE ROOTS ARE COVERED WITH SOIL

In good soil, dig a hole big enough for the roots to spread out. In poor soil, dig a hole wider and deeper than needed, and partly refill. Consider adding a soil improver eg. compost or manure.

Break up compacted soil to improve drainage and aerate the roots

Drive the stake into the bottom of the pit and place the tree on the downwind side
(to avoid it banging against the stake when the wind blows)

Keep the top of the root ball level with the soil surface, backfill and gently shake the tree up and down to ensure good contact between root and soil

Once the roots are covered, start 'treading in' more firmly until the hole is over-filled, leaving the soil slightly above the surrounding ground

'Treading in' is very important. Many failures are due to lack of firming the soil – but in heavy soils, do not firm so much that the ground becomes compacted

Tie the stake in approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ up the stem – movement is important to build strength

Clear grass and weeds from a one metre diameter area around the tree and apply a layer of mulch (leaf litter, lawn clippings, composted bark or similar)

Drench the soil with at least five litres of water

If you have mulched and weeded well you shouldn't need to water unless there is a very dry spell of more than a few weeks. If you've planted on an exposed site or somewhere with poor soil quality, and in drought conditions, it's best to water regularly in the summer to help young trees establish