

Tips for successful planting and maximising tree survival rates

# TREE PLANTING GUIDELINES



## TAKE CARE OF THE TREES

Keep the young trees in their bags until ready to plant. DO NOT let the roots dry out. Treat the trees gently and carefully separate them from others, while protecting their fragile roots.



## CONSIDER GROUPING AND SPACING OF TREES

Trees should be spaced apart by about 2 metres, but are better not too regimented, so a more natural grouping is achieved. Aim for some small clumps of the same species, as well as mixed groups.



## CLEAR A PLANTING SPACE

The young trees will suffer if there is competition from grasses etc. So start by cutting a circle and removing the turf. If fairly thick this can just be inverted and cut up if necessary and put in the bottom of the planting pit.



## DIG A PIT OR OPEN A SLIT

There are two main planting methods. Either dig a pit which is both several centimetres wider and deeper than the tree's roots, or, using a spade open a slit into which the tree roots can be carefully inserted.



## PLANT CAREFULLY AND FIRM THE SOIL

Place your tree in the pit or slit., making sure that the tree will be level with the surface at the point it was previously. If using a pit, backfill with the soil you dug out. And then with both methods carefully firm the soil around the tree with your heel. If available place a cardboard mat on top of the soil, with the slot around the stem.



## PROTECT AND SUPPORT THE TREES

If using a tube, carefully lower it over the young tree, making sure the flared end is uppermost. Feed a stake through the ties, knock into the ground and tighten the ties. If using a spiral, push the cane into the ground next to the tree and then add the spiral around both. If the tree is stout enough, the cane can be omitted.