



Tree Planting

Siting your tree

Choose a site for your tree which is in a well-drained, sunny position; making sure no other trees will overshadow it.

Planting

- Give the roots of your tree a good water,
- Remove any turfs or weeds then dig a hole with 60cm-long sides and 60cm deep, or to a depth that is in line with the depth it was grown in the nursery. You'll see the soil mark on the stem – **don't bury the graft**. Keep the turf and the soil separate and mix the soil thoroughly with well-rotted compost or manure.
- Loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole then place the turfs you removed, upside-down, on top of that.
- Chop up the turfs.
- Hammer a stake so it is firmly into the ground at the bottom of the hole. *Trees will need staking for the first 2 to 3 years.*
- Place the tree in the bottom of the hole and hold in place while you push the soil back into the hole. **There's no need to compact the soil with your foot or anything.**
- Use a tie to secure the tree to the stake. Old tights or bicycle inner tubes can be used as ties. Fasten the tie a few centimetres from the top of the stake then around the stem of the tree using a figure-of-eight method, leaving a gap between the stake and the tree (see overleaf).
- Give the ground a good water and mulch with either ripped-up cardboard or garden waste.

Aftercare >>>>



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Aftercare

All there is to do now is look after them and be patient.

- Only let one apple set the first year so the roots have a chance to establish.
- Prune dead, diseased, or damaged branches regularly with clean secateurs.
- Hard prune only a third of the tree when it's dormant – try to create a bowl shape.
- Feed in the spring with potash – use wood ash to scatter around the base of the stem.
- Check your trees now and again for any damage and loosen the ties as the tree grows.



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