

How to plant your new tree



**YOUR TREE
OUR FUTURE**

100,000 Trees for Hertfordshire

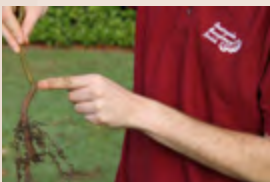
What, where and when...

- Planting is best done in winter, this is when the tree is in a dormant state. The wetter weather means lots of water for the roots and makes it easier for you to dig.
- Choose where to plant with care. Avoid dips in the ground which become waterlogged, areas of heavy shade or patches of ground prone to drying out.
- Plant a maximum of one week after receiving your tree and keep the roots covered to prevent them drying out. Cover the roots with soil or damp compost in a plant pot or the bag you received the tree in.

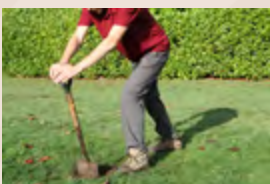
How... Use this QR code to watch a video guide on how to plant your tree



- The best method of planting your young tree is known as notch planting.



- Use a spade to make a notch in the ground deep enough to cover the roots. There should be a dirt line on the stem to show the previous depth.



- Move the spade backwards and forward to open the notch, creating a space for the roots.



- Slide the tree down into the notch slightly deeper than required, at a slight angle. Pull the tree upwards to the right depth allowing the roots to spread.



- Tread carefully but firmly around the stem to close the notch. Avoid creating a dip where water could pool around the tree.



- If the roots on your tree are larger, then use a T shaped notch instead, using the same method to widen the second notch with the spade.



- Once planted it is best to give your tree plenty of water to help it establish. A bucketful or whole watering can poured slowly around the stem will do.

Aftercare

- It is important to keep the area around your tree free of weeds and long grasses in the first year as these reduce the tree's growth.
- This can be done by hand-pulling the grass and weeds around the tree throughout the year and by applying a mulch material 1m wide around the tree.



- Mulches can be a sheet material or any other loose material such as bark, wood chippings or mown grass and leaf litter. Mulch also has the benefit of keeping heat and moisture in to aid root growth.

Watering

- Young trees in the UK can survive without water in cool and damp conditions, but to give them the best chance of success they should be given a helping hand in the first two summers.
- Water when first planted as instructed above.
- Start watering when the first buds start emerging in the spring and continue watering weekly throughout the summer. Increase this to every three days in hot dry periods.
- Aim for around 10 litres per watering for most of the year, increasing up to 20 litres in the hottest part of the year. A good guide is to make sure it drains within 10 minutes and there is no water pooling on the surface.
- Into autumn you can stop watering as there will be sufficient rain.