

## Seeds to trees

### Notes and Planting Instructions

Ensure that the planting site has been agreed by all concerned and you are certain you are planting in an area that is free from any services that run under or over the site, these include: water, gas, electricity and communications. Your local service providers will be able to help you with this. Also do not plant too close to any buildings – remember these trees can grow quite tall and have a similar spread for branches and roots.

Before starting to plant it will be useful to mark out the positions of each tree; use a tape measure or pace out and use sticks or markers as required.

We suggest the trees are planted at least a metre apart. They don't have to be planted in a block and your site may dictate otherwise. Some have been planted as avenues, others as small groups of trees or in wildlife gardens.

When you plant the trees, keep them in their containers until the last minute as this will protect the roots from the weather, especially drying winds. The tree roots can be immersed in a bucket of water just before planting if they are very dry.

Each tree will require a small pit to be dug with a spade (if you can get hold of any junior spades these are easier for children to use). The pit needs to be at least several centimetres wider and deeper than the fully extended roots of the tree to be planted.

A pit a spade's width wide will be more than sufficient. If planting into grass, the turf should be dug up and set aside. The bottom and sides of the pit should be loosened with a fork or spade, especially in hard or wet ground.

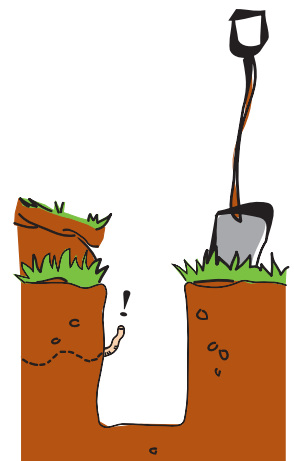
If the soil is particularly poor you can add a few spadefuls of compost, leaf mould or well-decayed manure into the bottom of the hole. However with most soils this is not necessary.

The tree should then be placed in the pit, cover the root plug with 25mm of soil and firm down well around the roots. If working as a pair, one person backfills the soil carefully around the root plug, using the most friable soil first. While the other person keeps the tree upright. Then use the remaining soil to fill the pit to the original ground level, press down each layer as the pit is filled, using hands or feet, but don't stamp too hard or you are likely to both over-compact the soil and scrape the bark of the stem.

If the turf has been reserved, this can now be cut in half, and each piece placed upside down around the stem and firmed into the soil.

If you can obtain any mulch, eg shredded woodchip or grass clippings, this can be applied around the base of the trees to help retain moisture during the summer months and to reduce the amount of competing vegetation around the trees.

Finally the trees can be watered if the ground is dry.



## Every child should have the chance to plant trees

Please call **0845 108 1428** (charged at local rate) or visit [www.treeforall.org.uk](http://www.treeforall.org.uk) for further information  
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#### Ongoing tree care

Newly planted trees do not require much on going maintenance though they will benefit from watering during the drier months. This can be a great way of encouraging children to care for the trees, perhaps by setting up a watering rota?

It can also be beneficial to keep the mulch topped up too as this will ensure the trees don't have competition for water from weeds. If weeds do grow through the mulch these can be removed by hand.

After a relatively short time, the small trees will start to bush out. During the summer months check for any branches that may have not survived and cut back with secateurs.

If you have any queries about your new copse pack then please do contact us for further information.

#### Step by step summary for planting your trees

- Remove the tree from the container.
- Inspect tree and remove any broken or damaged twigs and roots.
- Soak dry roots before planting.
- Mark out planting area as required.
- Dig tree pit with spade.
- Check depth of pit, length of the root plug + 25mm, adjust if necessary.
- Enlarge pit if necessary to avoid bending roots.
- One person holds tree and a second puts soil over roots.
- Firm soil lightly with feet.
- Continue filling and treading more firmly but do not firm too hard in wet conditions.
- Replace turf upside down on top of soil around tree.
- If dry, water well.
- Tidy up and apply mulch around the base of each tree.



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