

Checklist on arrival

Unpack all of your plants and plant protection:

- ✓ Confirm species, quantity and height of plants and plant protection are as per your order.
- ✓ Confirm plant roots are damp and in good order after transit. Note - the root structures can vary between being fibrous (thin and shallow) and tap rooted (longer and deeper) depending on the species.
- ✓ Confirm that stems are healthy. Your plants are dormant, so unlikely to have leaves in full flush, so for reassurance scrape back the stem of the plant using your fingernail to reveal green underneath the bark. This is a healthy plant.

Remember to **reuse or recycle** your Forestry Bags.



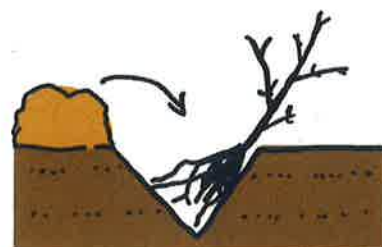
Storage before planting

All trees and hedging plants should be **planted within one week** of delivery. You can **store them for up to 7 days in the Forestry Bags** they arrived in where they will remain healthy if stored in a cool building away from the elements and any frost.

Alternatively, if you are unable to plant within 7 days we recommend you temporarily **'heel'** your plants into the ground, enabling them to be happily **stored throughout the winter period** until you are ready to plant them - see guidance below.

How to temporarily 'heel in' plants

1. Dig a V-shaped trench — wide and deep enough to hold the roots of the plants you are to heel in.
2. Place plants at an angle in the trench in their bundles, with the roots at the bottom and the trunk or base of the plants resting up the side of the trench.
3. Backfill with soil to cover the roots, using your heel to firm the plants in and remove any air pockets (hence the name 'heeling in').
4. Water once in position.



Tip: Bare root plants are better planted into their permanent position when still dormant, so avoid leaving plants heeled in beyond the bare root 'season', which typically ends mid-April depending on the timing of Spring.



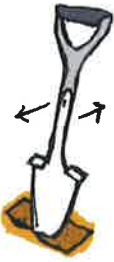
Tip: Avoid removing plants from the trench during frost or snow.

Ready for planting? How to remove heeled in plants

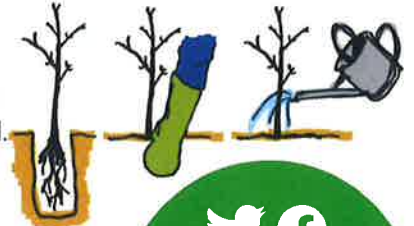
1. Gently remove and loosen the soil from the trench and around the roots using a trowel or your fingers to prevent damaging the roots. When you feel the bundle of plants coming loose pull them from the ground, gently shaking off any excess soil.
2. If the roots have remained damp then place your plants back in the Forestry bag they arrived in ready for planting out. Alternatively, give them a 'drink' prior to planting. Fill a bucket with water and soak the plant roots for 5-10 minutes. Drain off and place in the Forestry bag ready for planting.

Planting

Planting your bare root plants is an easy task, however do not plant if the ground is frozen or waterlogged. Find a suitable position for your plants, bearing in mind future growth and potential height and spread at maturity. Bare rooted plants can be 'notch' planted in four easy steps:

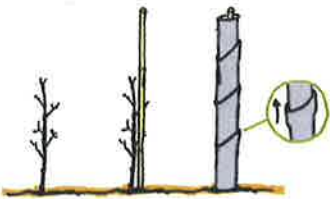


1. Begin by inserting the blade of a spade into the ground. Push the spade handle away from you and then bring it back towards you. Once you remove the spade, you will see that you have created a cavity or 'notch' in the ground.
2. Place the plant roots within the cavity and shake to ensure that all of the roots are pointing downwards.
3. Use your heel to firm the soil around the plant to remove any air pockets.
4. If practical to do so, give them a good water once planted.



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Protection



The Spiral Guard plant protection we provide plays a very important role in protecting your young trees from rabbits, strimming and mowing. They are easy to install in two easy steps and should be fitted following planting.

First, push a cane into the ground next to the plant. The purpose of the cane is to support the Spiral Guard. Next, slot the Spiral Guard over both the plant and the cane, ensuring the overlap of the spiral is pointing upwards.

Maintenance

A maintenance programme is essential to increase survival and growth rates. Weeded trees establish faster and need less maintenance overall. Bear in mind, when planting bare root stock, it is not unusual for natural losses to occur. Always budget for a small percentage of failures to be replaced in the first two years following planting.

Maintenance with protection

If you have protection on the plants, you can safely spray herbicides to the base to kill off weeds and grasses, without risk of chemicals touching the plants. Check at least twice a year that all plant protection is still securely fitted and replace where necessary. Protection should be maintained for at least 3 years and then removed for recycling.

Maintenance without protection

If you do not have protection fitted we would recommend securing weed control fabric to the ground prior to planting in order to easily suppress weed competition.



Plant companions



Be a **Plant Companion** for up to 3 years after you have planted your bare root plants. Vital to the success of a planting scheme, Plant Companions **stay connected** by checking in on growth rates, and weeding around the base of their plants. Once plants are established (typically from year 3 onwards), a Plant Companion completes this initial phase by removing the spiral protection for recycling.

Thanks to the original planting team in year 1 and the Plant Companions that help the scheme take root through years 2 and 3 it is at this stage plants can 'go it alone'.