



Tree Planting Site Preparation

Preparation is key when planting a tree. A small amount of time spent preparing for planting will result in a healthy tree that will happily survive with less maintenance over the first few years and thrive for many years to come.

It is good practice to have everything you need to hand and to prepare the site in advance.

- Clear the area of weeds around the required planting space. Weeds will compete directly with your newly planted tree for water and nutrients
- Test how the existing soil drains and prepare the soil accordingly. Consider land drain work if required
- Measure the depth of the container or rootzone to be planted
- Dig the hole to the depth of the soil level of the tree if the tree is in the container or to the top of the root zone in bareroot and root ball trees
- If machine dug, break up the base of the tree pit to avoid plating and compaction but make sure it is very firm so will not sink in the future
- Never plant a tree too deep
- Dig the planting hole wider than the existing root zone. This allows tree roots to spread
- Prepare the planting hole beforehand ensuring that you loosen the soil at the base and side of the planting hole with a fork. This will encourage the roots of the tree once planted to seek out new soil
- Add organic soil/planting compost and integrate with the existing soil and mix in well
- Keep tree roots out of the wind, sun or frost before planting
- Ensure that the tree roots are given a thorough soaking before planting

