

Tree Planting & Care General

Instructions



Tools & Requirements to plant a tree

- Spade and Pick(depending if ground is too hard for spade to dig with)
- Compost- 30 dm³ bag. -for 10L & 20L tree
- Fertiliser – 5:1:5 or 3:1:5, 250g
- Fertiliser – Super phosphate or Bone meal, 500g
- Tree stake x 1– a pole (preferably treated against wet rot and ants etc), diameter to be twice as thickness as tree stem.(Larger trees will require 2 stakes)
- Tree ties x 2 – tree ties are there to keep the tree attached to the stack and keep it straight and protect it from breaking. They can be bought from a nursery or garden supplier, or use plastic but no wire to tie up tree,(the wire will eventually cut into the stem and kill the tree)
- Hosepipe or bucket for watering application.
- Wheelbarrow, cardboard box or plastic bag (to put excess soil in while planting).
- Knife or scissors

Planting Steps

- Keep your tree well watered on arrival, water daily until planting time
- Mark position of hole as per trees growth habit.
- Dig a square hole in the ground in position marked, to four times the size of the bag so it can slide in and be level with the top of the bag, (not lower than the level of the ground or higher –this is vital as will result in collar rot and possible death of the tree). Place soil in container temporarily (not entirely necessary but handy when planting in existing lawn or flower beds.
- Remove plastic bag from root ball by either sliding off or cutting of the one side (Take care not to cut the roots) .
- Place compost on top of removed tree hole soil and mix in with added fertiliser and bone meal. Compost must be 30% by volume of the soil removed from the hole.
- Put root and soil ball in hole and check level of the ball is not below level of the ground.
- Full up empty spaces on the side with soil taken out of hole.
- Pour water in to ensure no airspaces left in hole, and compact soil around root ball with spade, keeping tree in straight position.

- Use existing soil to make dam wall (15cm high, you may need more soil other than from the hole).approximately one metre in diameter around the tree but away from the stem, this is to allow the water to stay near the roots to encourage growth.
- Position wood stake next to tree stem (5cm away and hit into ground until standing solid on its own.
- Attach tree ties to stake first and then to tree stem in 'figure of 8' pattern to keep the stem straight and train as it grows for future shape.
- Spread the, rest of compost bag and fertiliser (one handful) in dam area and then full with water.
- Water to be applied twice weekly until rains come for the first year to the level of dam wall. Say 5L per application

After Care

- Water as required.
- Fertilise tree twice a year as per same amounts as above, once in autumn, once in spring.
- Watch for pests on tree and remove.
- Protect the tree against frost for the first two cold seasons.
- Check ties regularly for damage and friction on tree stem
- Remove stake when it does eventually rot, usually one or two years depending soil type, you should not need to replace it unless the tree is unable to support itself.

Enjoy your tree –

~Quote:

“Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.”
Les Brown

~Chinese Proverb

The Best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago the next best time is now

For more information go to Plant Culture Website
www.plantculture.co.za

Tel 021 855 1591 Cell 082 377 8582
Vlaeberg Road Lynedoch Stellenbosch Western Cape

