



## Planting Container Grown Trees

Container-grown trees can be planted at more or less any time of year, but will need good, regular watering after planting to ensure good establishment. By planting in the autumn you can let Mother Nature do all the hard work for you when it comes to watering, and your tree gets the whole autumn, winter and following spring to really get its roots established before the onset of the hot, dry summer. This gives it the best possible start in its new environment. Your tree will survive spring planting but is more likely to suffer from drought than if planted in the autumn or early winter. Birch and beech, especially, are bad risks if planted after the end of February. Try to avoid planting on days with frosty or cold windy weather. Hard frost is most likely in January and February. So, October to March or April is generally the best time to plant a fully hardy deciduous tree, but preferably planting should be done before the end of December.

The most critical step is selecting your trees from top quality nursery stock. Trees grown in specialised containers will have the healthiest root system

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1. Pre-soak tree in its pot. (Preferably day before planting)
  2. Dig hole at least half again the size of the root ball, ensuring sides are not compacted to allow new root penetration
  3. It is essential that the soil is free draining, whilst being water retentive to survive drier periods.
  - 3.a Mix 2-3 shovels of grit with one bag of compost per tree and mix in 100grams of bonemeal.
  4. Fill base of hole with the above mixture and then sprinkle 150 grams Osmocote plant food around root area.
  5. Carefully remove from pot. (Pull out horizontally), and tease out the outer roots, avoiding any damage.
  6. Treat tree root directly as well as the base of the hole with Rootgrow (available via the web-site).
  7. Place tree in hole and layer in more compost mixture, firming down each layer as you go, to avoid any airpockets. Tamp down firmly.
  8. Ensure tree base is proud of surrounding ground to avoid trunk rotting.
  9. Stake with two or three stakes around circumference of pot and securely fasten using lengths of tree belt with nail gun into the post for stability of the root ball. (Stake no higher than 1 meter above ground)
  11. Use a mulch mat around the tree to prevent grass and weed growth around the tree, which will deprive the tree of water and minerals.
  12. It is essential that the soil does not dry out. Water regularly. Tree irrigation ring or tubes will ensure a regular controlled supply