

Trees are the backbone of the garden and / or broader landscape and are generally considered long-term propositions. It is therefore important to give them the best possible start because you can't go back later to rectify mistakes made at planting time.



Plan carefully and you will be well rewarded for many years or decades to come. Some simple tips are:

- Choose locations of trees and larger shrubs carefully, noting where overhead and underground services (water, gas, electricity, telephone) may be and allowing adequate distance to prevent interference in later years. Allow plenty of space between buildings, paths etc and trees to minimise potential root damage.
 - Note the sun's arc over your garden – plan for summer shade and winter sun on outdoor living areas. Shade in the hotter months may reduce indoor temperatures by up to 5 degrees.
 - Having bought your tree and planned where it is to go, place the pot on the chosen site before committing spade to soil to confirm you've made the right choice.
 - If the soil is a heavy clay or clay loam, add **Gypsum** over the area and allow rain or watering to wash it in over a couple of weeks.
 - Never dig planting holes into clay subsoil and backfill with a loamy mix as the hole will act as a sump, collecting and filling up with water, as it penetrates the loam much easier than clay – your tree will eventually drown! It's better to plant into a raised mound if necessary.
- Start by digging the hole for your tree, ensuring it is at least twice to three times the diameter of the pot and at least 1.5 times as deep. (Don't follow the practice of those TV make-over shows where the hole is exactly the same size as the root mass, and the tree is simply 'dumped' into it – chances are it won't survive!).
 - Break up the soil in the base of the hole and backfill with **Enriched Organic Planting Mix** (so the tree will sit at or about the same level in the hole as it is in the pot). **Certified Organic Fertiliser** may also be added to the planting hole at this stage.
 - Add **Water Storing Granules** to the prepared base – there is no need to pre-wet them as they will swell up when you water the tree in. Do not apply granules to the soil surface – the moisture they absorb is required at root level.
 - If required, hammer in stakes either side of the hole to support the tree until its roots are well established.
 - Knock the tree carefully from the pot and break off the surface crust. Run your fingers firmly down the sides of the root mass to break the surface, so roots will be encouraged to move out of the potting mix into the surrounding garden soil.
 - Place the tree in the hole and ensure it is sitting at the correct depth. Back fill with a mix of **Enriched Planting Mix** and natural soil, leaving a saucer-shaped depression around the trunk for watering.
 - Water in with **Sea Tea** or **Plant Starter** to settle the soil and remove air pockets around the roots.
 - Add more soil if required.
 - Tie the tree firmly to stakes (if necessary) to prevent excessive root movement. Check ties regularly top ensure they are not cutting into the bark.
 - Water deeply every week or so until the tree starts making new growth – you can then be reasonably confident the tree will survive!

Mulch around the tree with **Tea Tree Mulch**, taking care to keep it clear of the main stem or trunk but covering the entire planting site. Mulch will assist moisture retention, keep the soil cooler and suppress weed growth.