

## How to Plant a Tree

Below are some basic guidelines to follow when planting. It is advisable to wear gloves to protect yourself from injury, soil pathogens and any herbicides that may have been sprayed.

1. Dig a hole that is deeper than the seedling pot. At least half the depth and twice the width extra is a good measure.
2. Remove the plant gently from its container. Be careful not to tear the leaves or roots. If it's hard to remove, try inverting the pot keeping your fingers securely around the base of the plant and gently squeezing the sides or tapping the bottom of the pot.
3. Place the plant gently in the hole and hold in place.
4. Fill around the plant with soil without leaving any air gaps. Make sure the top of the soil just covers the top of the root system of the plant, but by no more than about one or two centimetres
5. Make sure the plant root system is not set above the soil surface, try to have the backfilled plant sitting in a slight depression or well so that it will attract and retain water.
6. Make sure the plant is standing straight.
7. Press the soil down firmly to remove air pockets and add plenty of mulch (10 cm thick is great) around the base to reduce water loss and weed invasion.
8. If you have tree guards, place them carefully around the plant. For plastic sleeves use 3 stakes - put 2 stakes in around the plant, then the sleeve over these and use the third stake to make sure you have a nice taught triangle.
9. Water the plant. This will also help to get rid of air pockets. You may need to water new plants fairly regularly until they are established, especially in hot conditions. Be mindful of over watering as you do not want your plants becoming water dependant.

Be careful not to tread on any plants as you walk away!

Make sure you take all your equipment with you.

If you have used a tree guard - When your plant grows a short distance above the top of the tree guard remove the tree guard. This prevents littering and the guard can then be reused.

