

PLANTING YOUR ADVANCED TREE

This is the most important part of your investment. Get this right and you will be rewarded for many years to come.

Select your site carefully. Your selection of tree should have had consideration for soil conditions of the chosen site. For example, some trees will not tolerate poor drainage, whilst some may flourish in such conditions. Keep in mind how big your tree will grow. They often grow faster and bigger than we anticipate.

Site Preparation is vital for your new tree to continue growing at the rate you expect of it. Too often trees are planted with little or no site preparation. Preparing the site with the addition of a good compost would be invaluable in assisting with drainage and root growth. A little slow release fertiliser in late spring would also be beneficial.

Dig your hole to the depth of the Root Control Bag (RCB). Whilst not always practical, the width of the hole should be 2 or 3 times that of the rootball. This will give greater aeration in the soil surrounding the rootball, enabling rapid root development and a healthy re-establishment of your new tree.

It's time to plant your tree. Remove RCB and prune back any damaged roots. Don't add fertiliser to hole prior to planting as this may lead to burning the new roots. Be sure to firmly stomp in the soil around the rootball. Most advanced trees will need staking. At least 2 stakes will ensure the tree doesn't move too much, protecting the new fibrous roots.

Mulching is highly recommended. A layer of about 2 – 4 inches of well composted mulch will have several benefits:

- Reduces water loss through evaporation.
- Reduces weeds around tree.(less competition for water)
- A well composted mulch will release much needed nutrients to soil and tree.

Watering in. Ensure your new tree is well watered in. Do not over-water, however you must ensure that water is reaching the trees root system where it is most needed. A couple of lengths of agri-pipe around the base of the tree will assist with this. Most advanced trees would require approximately 15 to 20 ltrs of water twice per week over the summer months. Of course be guided by seasonal weather conditions.