

FT4B Tree Planting Guide



Before you get started, get yourself prepared.

We'll supply you with the tree, wooden stake, tree tie and bark mulch but you'll also need a spade for digging the hole, a lump hammer for driving in the stake, a watering can or access to water, a pair of gloves and a sturdy pair of shoes. Once you've got all of these, you're ready to go. As well as this guide, there are plenty of resources online to help you including videos and photo guides but it's really not too complicated.

1. Dig your hole in the right place

Select a location that allows enough space for the tree to grow. Not too close to walls, drains, access etc. It's important to have a wide but shallow hole for your new tree. Dig a square shaped hole three times the width of the roots but only just deep enough so that the **top of the first root** is in line with ground level.

2. Prepare your tree

For bare root trees, remove the tree from its bag and place the roots in a bucket of water for up to 30 minutes before planting. For potted trees, give them a good water before you remove it from its pot.

3. Stake

This step is not absolutely necessary however if you wish to stake your new tree this is the time to do so. Place the stake either at an angle or upright in the planting pit and knock in with your hammer, avoiding the roots as much as possible. A low stake is best for tree development, aim to attach the stake roughly 30 - 50cm above ground level.

4. Plant your tree

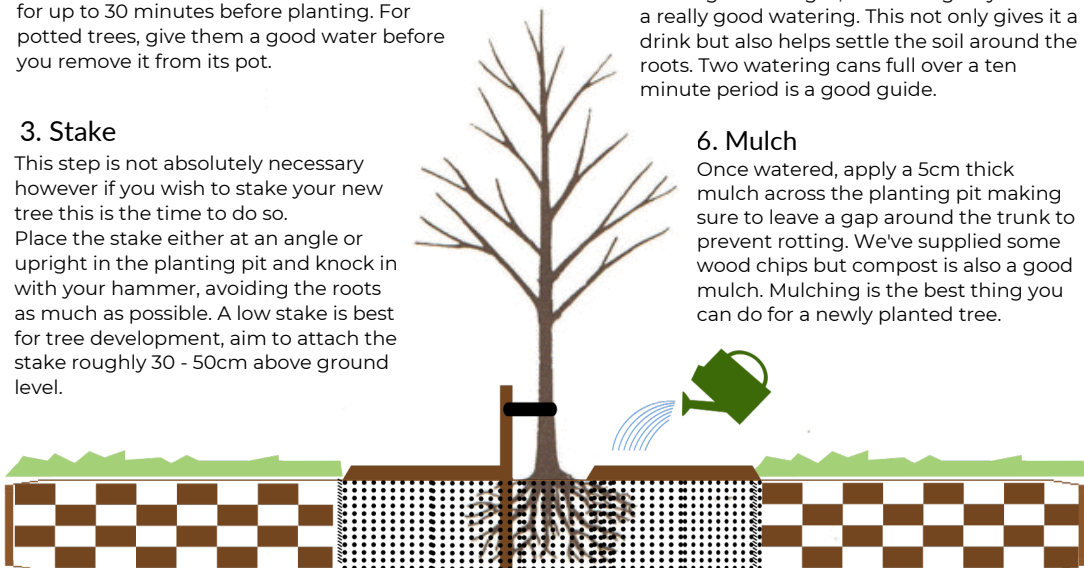
Place the tree in the planting pit, holding it upright, you may need a helping hand keeping it straight while you back-fill with the soil you dug out, gently firm the soil around the roots with your feet. Adding compost into the hole is not necessary but equally a small quantity mixed into the back-fill won't harm it.

5. Tie & Water

After planting, use the tree tie to attach your tree to the stake without it rubbing by twisting the tie tight, and then give your tree a really good watering. This not only gives it a drink but also helps settle the soil around the roots. Two watering cans full over a ten minute period is a good guide.

6. Mulch

Once watered, apply a 5cm thick mulch across the planting pit making sure to leave a gap around the trunk to prevent rotting. We've supplied some wood chips but compost is also a good mulch. Mulching is the best thing you can do for a newly planted tree.



We encourage the use of social media to help celebrate this scheme and love to see how you get on so don't forget to take a photo of your new tree being planted and share it on Facebook and Twitter #FT4B #FreeTree



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