

**BIG PLANT**  
Centre

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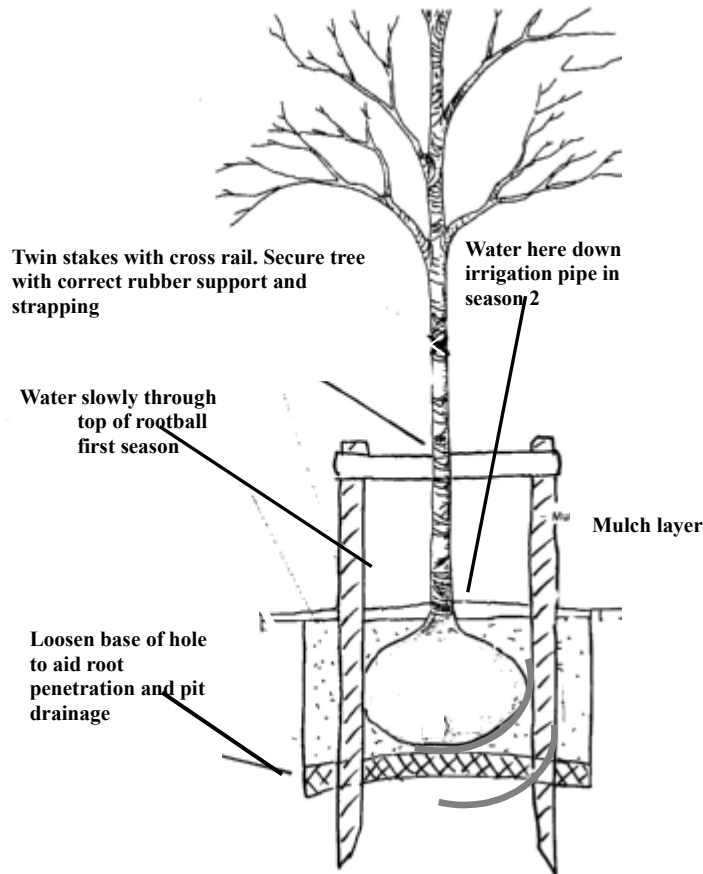
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# CARING FOR YOUR NEW TREE

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## Recommended Shopping List

- Tree
- Tree stake or stakes and cross rail
- Tree tie, belt not string or wire
- TPMC planting compost
- Bark or similar mulch
- Rootgrow
- Perforated irrigation pipe

## The Hole

Dig the hole as large as possible, ensuring that the roots or rootball of the plant will fit well into the hole with 4-5 inches on either side.

Make sure that the hole is deep enough, the tree should be at the same depth in the soil as it was before lifting or it is growing in the container.

It is important to dig over the bottom of the hole well as this will aid drainage and assist good root establishment.

A good planting compost such as T.P.M.C. should be dug into the base of the hole, as this will encourage deep root growth.

We would also recommend the use of a mycorrhizal fungus additive such as Rootgrow. This is a cocktail of friendly fungi that work with the transplanted tree to establish quicker and reducing stress by encouraging root development and making the uptake of naturally available nutrients easier for the new tree. Treated plants quickly develop a complex secondary root system which then helps support the main root system throughout their life.

## Planting

Position the tree and adjust its depth in the hole. The final depth of the tree must be at the same depth as it was in the container or just above the start of the stem base, DO NOT plant deeper.

**The BIG PLANT centre @ Pantiles Nurseries**  
Almners Road, Lyne, Chertsey, Surrey KT160BJ  
Tel 01932 872195 Fax: 01932 874030  
Email: [sales@pantiles-nurseries.co.uk](mailto:sales@pantiles-nurseries.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bigplantcentre.co.uk](http://www.bigplantcentre.co.uk)

Root ball

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Tree stakes

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Back filling should be done with a mixture of soil taken from the hole and some planting compost.

The irrigation pipe should be installed at this point. The perforated **irrigation pipe** should be secured like a corkscrew around the root ball at the time of planting leaving one open end 10cm above the soil.

The soil should then be firmed well, this can be done by treading the soil with your feet making sure you keep the tree straight.

## **Staking**

If the tree is bare root this should be done prior to planting. With container grown or root balled trees, it may be difficult to position the stake close to the main trunk so two stakes should be used with a cross rail and the tree attached with a tree tie. Stakes are only a short-term measure and should be removed by the third season. This will allow the roots to anchor and support the tree naturally.

## **Mulching**

To complete the planting a mulch should be spread 2" deep around the base of the tree to retain the moisture after planting, add nutrients and suppress weeds. Allow a 2" gap between the trunk and the mulch.

## **Top Dressing**

Top dress the tree with a suitable fertilizer in Spring and mulch annually, to ensure maximum growth and quick establishment.

## **Watering**

Adequate water is the most critical factor for any tree in the first season  
Your newly planted trees and shrubs need to be established quickly to ensure their long-term success. This will require careful attention.

## **Day 1**

Water the root ball before planting and soak the soil thoroughly immediately after planting.

## **All Subsequent Watering**

Check the root ball and the surrounding soil by gently digging in the soil 8-10cm or deeper if necessary. If the root ball is wet or damp from previous watering you do not need to water. If the root ball below the surface has dried out then water only enough to ensure the root ball is wet. The irrigation pipe should be filled with water periodically in the first season. In the second, the irrigation pipe can be used more frequently but surface watering should also be carried out, especially in hot or dry weather.

**Check.** To avoid plant damage or failure, check the plant at least every other day.

## **How much water do I give?**

It is impossible to advise on how much to give, as each plant, the soil, site conditions and the weather in your garden are unique. The answer is to keep checking the plant; if the root ball and surrounding soil are wet

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then do not water, and if they are dry you need to water. If you are unsure then please call and speak to one of our experts.

#### **Don't waterlog**

The plant will not tolerate sitting in water-saturated ground – air in the soil is as vital as the water.

#### **Don't be fooled by the rain**

Summer rain very often does not soak deeply into the ground but simply wets the surface and does not get to the root ball. Sometimes the underlying soil can be very dry, but the soil surface appears wet.

In such weather it is vital to keep checking the rootball to make sure it receives enough water. If you receive persistent heavy rain then this will do a good job of watering your plant but you must check to make sure, as some plants will shield the rootball from the rain with their broad foliage canopy.

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