











Plant Your Tree - Pit planting

This method is suitable for all ground types, especially areas prone to drought, but it can be difficult if you have stony soil.

	<p>Step 1 Use a spade to take some turf out of the ground, turn it over and chop into smaller pieces</p>
	<p>Step 2 Dig a hole slightly wider and deeper than the roots of your tree. Loosen the soil around the edges. The turf you have cut up can be placed into the bottom of the pit to provide the tree with extra nutrients.</p>
	<p>Step 3 Put the tree in the hole and check the depth. Look for the collar – the mark on the tree where it originally started to grow above the ground. This should be level with the top of the soil. If your tree is planted too deep, the stem may rot; too shallow and the roots above the ground will die.</p>
	<p>Step 4 Hold your tree upright and gently push back the soil, pressing it down onto the roots. Don't compact the soil as this will stop water and air circulation, but make sure your tree is secure.</p>
	<p>Step 5 Now push the cane into the ground next to the tree, making sure it's stable.</p>
	<p>Step 6 If using tree guards or spirals to protect your saplings, this is the stage to add these. Press the protection firmly into the soil.</p>

Plant Your Tree - Slit planting

This is a simple method that is suitable for bare soil and grass. It can be easier than pit planting if you've got stony soil.

	<p>Step 1 Press your spade all the way into the ground, then push it forwards to create a slit. Make sure it's deep enough for the tree roots.</p>
	<p>Step 2 Keep the slit open with your spade and place your tree inside with the root plug about 2cm below ground level.</p>
	<p>Step 3 Remove the spade and push the soil back around the tree.</p>
	<p>Step 4 If using tree guards or spirals to protect your saplings, this is the stage to add these. Press the protection firmly into the soil.</p>

Plant Your Tree - T-notch planting

This is another quick method for grass-covered ground but not bare soil. This is an alternative to pit planting in areas susceptible to drought, but is not recommended for sites with clay soils.

	<p>Step 1 Push the spade fully into the ground.</p>
	<p>Step 2 At a right angle to the first cut, repeat step 1 to create a T-shape.</p>
	<p>Step 3 Take the spade to the original cut and lever it upwards, parting the turf.</p>
	<p>Step 4 Place the tree carefully in between the sections of turf.</p>
	<p>Step 5 Lever the spade back out and the turf will fall into place. Ensure all roots are taken into the hole.</p>
	<p>Step 6 Adjust the tree to ensure it is at ground level, and thoroughly firm down soil around the tree.</p>