

# How To Plant A Tree

1. Before planting your tree it is advisable to remove any vegetation within a 0.5m radius, including grass, as trees establish and grow faster without any competition. If you can't apply a herbicide in advance then it's best to remove as much of the vegetation as possible, using a spade, hoe, mower or strimmer as applicable.

2. Before the tree, soak the tree roots in a bucket of water for around 10 minutes. In the case of cell grown trees, puncture the black stretch film top and bottom before soaking. Try to only remove the black stretch film just prior to planting, to avoid any unnecessary damage to the roots and to keep the growing media intact.

3. Dig your hole. It should be roughly twice the size of the pot, with room at the sides and at the bottom. Prick the sides of the hole with a fork to make it easier for the roots to break out into it. Give the hole a generous watering.

4. Fill the bottom of the hole with a mixture of compost/manure and top soil. If you have dry soil then the soil in the pot should be slightly below ground level, if you have very wet soil it should be slightly above. Otherwise it can be in line with the current level.

5. Remove the Air-Pot by unscrewing the green fixings on the side. Remove the Air-Pot wall and the slotted base before planting. Place the tree in the hole and position it.

6. Before back filling the hole, place the stake into position and hammer into the ground (you may need to take the tree back out of the hole to avoid being damaged).



**NOTE ON STAKING:** There are differing views on the staking of trees. Modern techniques indicate that staking is for the benefits of the roots to stop the root ball rocking rather than to make the trunk grow straight. Low stakes at a height of 1-2ft (30-60cm) are preferable. At this height they hold the root ball in place but allow the trunk to grow strong. We would advise against using a tall stake on Eucalyptus as if they have a nice firm stake to hold them up they won't waste any energy on growing a strong trunk. Once the stake is taken away the tree will just fly over. Trees in this condition will not recover and need to be pruned back and allowed to grow again.

7. Back fill the hole with more compost and top soil, firming as to go. Once the soil is level you can use your foot to really firm it down. If you are using mulch mat, now is the time. Cut a slit to fit around the tree and stake, use the pegs to secure it to the ground.

8. If you are using a tree shelter or spiral guard you can put it on now. Incisions can be made to allow for a tree tie.

9. Attach the tree tie to the stake, and then around the tree. The tie should be loose enough so that it does not pull the tree towards the stake but just tight enough to give support. You should check your tree tie a few times in a year to make sure it is not causing damage to the growing tree.

10. Water the tree very well, wait for the water to soak in and do it again. The most important things you can do now to help your tree establish are the three W's: **Water, Weeds and Water.**

Eucalyptus are thirsty trees, for their first year make sure so water regularly and well.

