
Planting Guide - How to care for your new plants

What to do once your plants have been delivered.

Bare root plants

Once you have received your plants please unpack and water immediately. If bare rooted plants are left with their root exposed for more than 20 minutes or frost, the failure rate will increase rapidly. Once unpacked, watered and inspected please heal in by digging a small shallow trench and covering the roots with soil. This will maintain the plants do not dry out and stay healthy ready to plant.

Rootballed plants

When receiving rootballed plants please remove from the pallet and place in a sheltered area until planting. The hessian bags must be left on at all times. Removal of the hessian root bags will damage the plants and could cause them to fail.

Pot grown plants

Firstly remove all the packaging, water and inspect the plants. Place in a sheltered area until time for planting. Pot grown plants will survive in there pots for 6 months or more with adequate water and feed.

Planting your new plants

Preparation

Preparation can be different, depending on the soil. Start by cleaning the area and removing all weeds and debris. For soil help please see our "Soil guide" information sheet available from our website.

Pit planting VS Trench planting

Pit planting

Pit planting is where you dig a hole for each plant. It can be quicker than digging a trench as you don't have to remove as much soil. Pit planting is recommended for lager plants because you would only plant 2 per metre. When planting a long (over 15 metres) double staggered bare root hedge pit plating can be easier than a trench.

Trench planting

Trench planting is where you dig one continuous trench for the whole hedge. The benefits are, the soil has been broken up and air introduced which will enable quicker root growth. Trench planting is recommended for planting Box (Buxus) @ 7 plants per metre. Trench planting can be more efficient when planting a smaller run of hedge i.e. less than 15 metres.

Bare root or pot grown plants

Once you have decided to trench plant or pit plant, mark out the area and preparer the ground using the information above. Uncover your plants from where they were healed in, and place in a water butt to soke for no more than 10 minutes. If you have decided to pit plant, dig a hole with the minimum dimensions of 6" or 15cm wide, and 9" or 25cm deep. Fill the hole with a hand full of compost and insert the whip. Once inserted back fill the hole with 50:50 mix of soil and compost, and then firm down with your heal. If planting using the trench method, line the bottom of the trench with compost, place the bare root plants out and back fill with 50:50 mix of soil and compost. Please remember to not let your plants dry out. Keep dipping your plants in water to maintain damp roots. A handy tip is to dip your plants then place in a plastic bag (much like the one we delivered your plants in) to keep the wind from drying them out.

Rootballed plants

Once you have decided to trench plant or pit plant, mark out the area and preparer the ground using the information above. If you have decided to pit plant, dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the rootball, add a good spade full of compost and back fill with a 50:50 mix of compost and soil. If planting using the trench method, dig the trench twice as wide as the rootballs and line the bottom of the trench with compost, place the plants out and back fill with 50:50 mix of soil and compost. Please remember to NOT remove the hessian sack from the rootball. Removal of the sack will cause the plants to fail. The hessian sack is biodegradable and will not cause the plant to suffocate.

Once your hedge has been planted, please water in to settle the roots.

We hope you've found our planting guide useful. If you have any further questions or need some advice please email info@hedgingplantsdirect.co.uk or visit our website www.hedgingplantsdirect.co.uk for further information.