



More Trees: More Action

-Climate Proofing the West

THE GARDEN FOREST

Planting & Looking After Trees & Shrubs in Gardens

Things to Think About

Trees/shrubs come in all shapes and sizes and can live and grow for a very long time. When planning your planting you need to think about the size it will be (under and above ground) when fully grown. A guide for a new garden tree/ shrub is that it should be no closer than its full-grown height from a building.

You should also think carefully about how and where you are going to plant your tree. Always check the deeds of your house for any services, as these will restrict what can be planted. Service providers will have information on the distances trees/shrubs can be planted from services. You should also consider how your tree may impact upon your neighbours and upon public footpaths and highways. If you are in any doubt about the impact of planting trees/shrubs on your property, you should contact a surveyor for further advice.

When to Plant?

This depends on whether the plant is bare-rooted or in a pot. Whilst winters are becoming milder, a good general guide remains to plant between mid November to mid March, with broadleaved trees/shrubs ideally being planted before Christmas. Planting should not take place when the ground is frozen.

How to Plant?

- First, ensure that you have the correct clothing, tools and equipment to allow you to plant the tree safely. You might want to ask for assistance in carrying the tree.
- For bare-rooted trees/shrubs, cut a 'T' shaped notch with a spade, lift the soil and ease the roots in to the hole by hand so that none are sticking out of the hole. The earth should be firmed down with the toe of the foot and the tree/shrub be left standing straight, in the middle. If the ground is compacted, then break this up with a spade, so that the plant is planted in to loosened soil and in to an area which is well drained.
- For container-grown plants, dig a hole bigger than the root ball of the plant and put the soil put to one side. Break up any compacted soil around the hole. Flex the pot on all sides and gently ease the tree/ shrub out of the pot, supporting the root ball. Plant the tree/shrub in to the hole and fill the hole with broken up soil, gently firming as you go until the plant is firmly in the ground, Ensure that the soil is no lower than the area surrounding it.
- Further information and guidance on safe planting procedures can be found in the HSE and AFAG Guide 103, 'Planting'. <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/afag103.pdf>

Looking after What You've Planted

Maintenance is simple but absolutely critical for the first three years of a tree/shrub's life and important beyond this. The main concern is keeping an adequate supply of water to the roots. It is important therefore, that as a minimum, an area of 30 cm around the base of the plant is kept weed free. Generous watering should also take place regularly through the first three years, including directly after planting. Non-greasy grey water is fine.

Once your tree is established, you should inspect it from time to time to ensure that it is healthy and strong and does not pose a hazard.

Where Can I Get Trees?

The Forest of Avon Trust provides free trees/ shrubs for garden planting in target areas each year, to find out where these are visit: moretreesmoreaction.com . Sourcing trees/shrubs from elsewhere can be cheap and we can provide a list of local nurseries which should be able to help. Please call (0117) 963 3383.

What Size Tree Should I Plant?

Trees/shrubs are best planted when they are small. Trees can be planted taller (up to 2m) for quick effect, but the planting needs to be properly managed and the tree correctly supported by a stake. Larger planted trees usually grow more slowly than smaller ones.

Where taller (standard) tree planting is undertaken, dig a hole a third larger than the roots and locate the stake on its windward side and firmly banged this in to the ground prior to planting. The firmed-in tree should then be attached to the stake with a tree tie. This will need to be removed after a few years.

Forest of Avon Trust

The Trust runs the Garden Forest and Free Trees schemes to get more trees planted locally and also runs projects to involve children and others in local woodlands. If you join us as a Friend we can offer advice on planting native trees/ shrubs, provide local tree- news and a range of other benefits. We also have a great range of other schemes to benefit the local area. To find out more, visit: moretreesmoreaction.com

Disclaimer

Trees and shrubs supplied by the Forest of Avon Trust are supplied entirely at your own risk and the Forest of Avon Trust shall not be liable for the performance of the trees and shrubs provided of for the use to which they are put.

This document is for guidance only. If you have any doubts about tree planting, you should seek appropriate professional advice.

The Forest of Avon Trust does not accept responsibility for any accident, injury, damage or loss purported to be caused or occasioned as a result of following this guide (with the exception of the death or personal injury caused by the negligence (as defined in Section 1 of the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977) of the Forest of Avon Trust, its employees, servants and agents.

In drawing up this guide we have referred to HSE & AFAG Guidance No 103 'Planting'.