



Tree Planting

Planting a native tree is easy and rewarding with many benefits to humans, the land, water quality and native fauna.

A potted plant is ready to be planted out when it has healthy leaf growth and roots showing at the base of the pot. Attention should then be directed towards site location, soil preparation, planting and maintenance, all of which will be essential for long-term success.

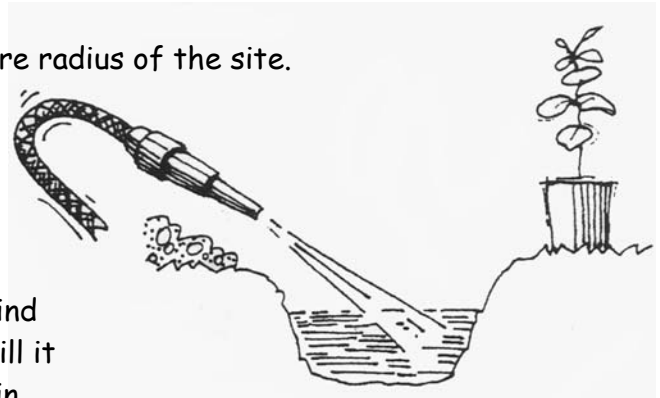
Site location

Before planting a tree consider these things:

- The ultimate size and shape of the mature tree.
- The purpose of the tree ie. wind break, shade, dust reduction.
- Is it suitable to the location - away from underground services, low lying area, dry areas etc.

Site preparation

- Clear weeds within a 1 metre radius of the site.
- Dig a hole twice the diameter and twice the depth of the plant's container. The edges of the hole should not be smooth as the roots may find it difficult to penetrate. Fill it with water and let it soak in
- Place a slow release fertiliser tablet into the hole, cover with soil and ensure it does not come into contact with the roots of the plant.

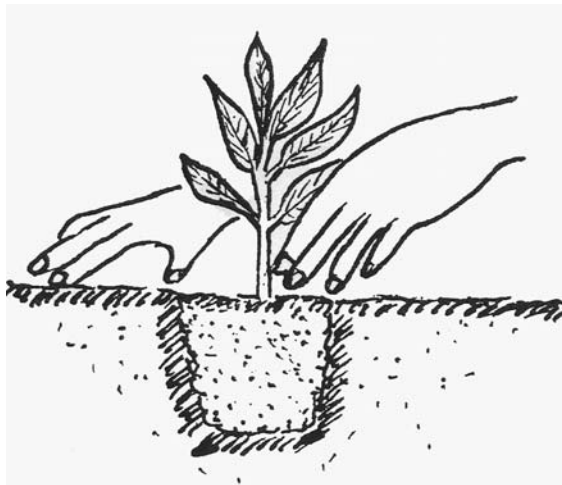


Planting

- Planting during the build up and wet season is generally the best time.
- Soak the plant thoroughly before planting.



- Place hand over the pot, turn it upside down and tap firmly on the base to loosen plant.
- Place the plant in the hole with the soil level the same as it was in the pot.
- Fill with moistened soil (the back fill soil can be mixed with potting mix to give the plant an added boost).



- Firm down gently to remove air pockets. If the soil is compressed too much it will hinder root growth.
- Water the plant well, as soon as possible after planting.

Maintenance

- Mulch with leaves, straw, forest mulch, wood chip, compost etc. to reduce any water loss and prevent weed growth.
- Keep mulch away from the stem to prevent rotting.
- Staking plants is not recommended. Well grown, healthy trees are strong enough to support themselves. Stakes may be used to mark trees if they are in areas likely to be trampled, mowed etc.
- Watering for the first two weeks should be regular and deep. Gradually reduce the frequency of the watering but maintain the deep soakings. This will encourage deep root growth and better equip the tree for drought resistance.
- If planted in the wet season, most trees will require water for the first dry season. If well established after the following wet it will not require any further watering. Monsoon Forest species will require water during dry seasons to reach their full potential.
- Weed regularly to a 1 metre diameter around each plant.