



Tree Planting and Maintenance Guidelines

1. Tools & requirements to plant a tree

(Quantities based on a 20litre tree, adjust accordingly for bigger or smaller trees)

- 1.1. Spade and Pick (depending if ground is too hard for spade to dig with)
- 1.2. Compost – 30 dm³ bag.
- 1.3. Fertilizer – 250g 5:1:5, 3:1:5 or Bounceback, 500g Super Phosphate or Bone meal
- 1.4. Tree stake x1 – a pole (preferably treated)
diameter to be twice the thickness of the tree stem. (larger trees will require 2 stakes)
- 1.5. Tree ties x 2 to attach tree to stake . They can be bought from a nursery or garden supplier, or use plastic but no wire to tie up tree; the wire will eventually cut into the stem and kill the tree.
- 1.6. Hosepipe or bucket for watering application
- 1.7. Wheelbarrow or any other container to put excess soil in while planting
- 1.8. Knife or scissors to remove bag from tree

2. Planting steps:

- 2.1. Keep your tree well watered on arrival, water daily until planting time.
- 2.2. Mark position of hole as per trees' growth habit.
- 2.3. Dig a square hole in the ground in position marked, twice the diameter of the bag. Be sure to plant the tree at the same level at which it is standing in the bag. No soil must cover the root collar as this will result in collar rot and possible death of the tree.
Place soil removed from hole in wheelbarrow or container temporarily (not entirely necessary but handy when planting in existing lawn or flower beds).
- 2.4. Remove plastic bag from root ball (take care not to damage the roots).
- 2.5. Mix compost, fertilizer and bone meal with soil removed from hole. Compost must be 30% of the volume of the soil removed from the hole.
- 2.6. Put root ball in hole and check that the level of the ball is not below level of the ground.
- 2.7. Fill up empty spaces on the side with soil taken out of hole
- 2.8. Compact soil around root ball with spade, keeping tree in straight position.
- 2.9. Use excess soil to make dam wall (15cm high, you may need more soil other than from the hole). Approximately one meter in diameter around the tree but away from the stem, this is to allow the water to stay near the roots to encourage growth.
- 2.10. Position the wood stake next to the tree stem (5cm away and hit into ground until standing solid on its own).
- 2.11. Attach tree ties to stake first and then to tree stem in 'figure of 8' pattern to keep the stem straight and train it to grow straight.
- 2.12. Spread rest of compost bag & fertilizer (one handful) in dam area and then fill with water.
- 2.13. 5litres of water to be applied twice weekly until rains

3. Aftercare and Maintenance:

- 3.1. Water as required,
- 3.2. Fertilize tree every 3 months as per quantities above.
- 3.3. Ensure that tree is securely staked in wind, checking every week for abrasion.
- 3.4. Watch for pests on tree and remove.

- 3.5. Protect the tree against frost for the first two cold seasons.
- 3.6. Check ties regularly for damage and friction on tree stem.
- 3.7. Remove stake when it does eventually rot, usually one or two years depending on soil type, you should not need to replace it unless the tree is unable to support itself.
- 3.8. Please ensure that:
 - 3.8.1. Tree is planted at correct level (Same as the level of the original bag growing height).
 - 3.8.2. Tree is secured well and that root ball will not move in windy conditions
 - 3.8.3. Air is removed from the root area when planting, compact well when planting
 - 3.8.4. No fertilizer comes in contact with the stem of the tree (will result in collar burn)
 - 3.8.5. Tree is protected from browsing animals

NB: This is merely a courtesy guideline for planting. Themba Trees accepts no responsibility for damages, losses or consequential losses for any instructions given. The onus rests with the individual planting the material to research and apply the necessary instruction for planting. Different plants may require different planting instructions.