



## **How to Plant a Tree**

***Recommended tree planting season – between November and March.***

### **Equipment needed:**

**Watering can, spade, fork, tree guard, stake, tie/string (to keep the stake and guard together), lump hammer.**

### **How to plant a potted tree from the 'Gift to Nature' tree nursery**



- 1. Before planting give the tree a thorough watering.**
- 2. Mark out where each tree will be planted (at least 2 meters apart).**
- 3. Dig a hole 3 times as wide as the pot and the same depth. If you remove turf, keep it separate from the soil pile.**
- 4. Using the fork, break up compacted soil around the hole to improve drainage and aeration.**
- 5. Remove the pot and gently loosen the root ball to encourage roots to spread into the surrounding soil.**



- 6. Place the tree in the hole, making sure that when planted, the part of the tree where the roots meet the trunk (often called the 'root collar') will be level with the surrounding ground, not above or below. This is crucial.**





**7. Refill the hole with soil. If you have cut turf left over, cut it in half, and place it upside-down around the tree. This will suppress competing growth and slowly nitrify the soil as the upside-down turf dies.**

**8. Make sure the tree is upright and firm around it using the heel of your boot.**

**9. Water the tree thoroughly.**



### **Support**

**10. Place the stake about 5cm away from the tree and hammer it in with the lump hammer.**

**11. Carefully place the tree guard over the tree, curved edge at the top. Press the guard firmly into the ground to prevent wind and vermin being able to get inside. Ensure the top of the stake is below the top edge of the guard, to prevent chaffing as the tree moves in the wind. Use the tie/string to secure the guard firmly to the stake.**

### **Aftercare**

**12. Keep an eye on the tree and water it if needed.**

**13. If grass and weeds grow up within the tree guard, remove the guard, weed and replace it as before.**

**14. Enjoy looking after your tree, watching it getting bigger and stronger as the seasons and years pass.**



*For more information on tree planting, visit our website:  
[gifttonature.org.uk](http://gifttonature.org.uk)*

**Gift to Nature** works to support, protect and improve the natural environment on the Isle of Wight, looking after some of the Island's most precious countryside reserves and local green spaces. We are passionate about keeping this environment beautiful and open for all.

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*Gift to Nature is part of Natural Enterprise  
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