

# Planting Guide

## How to plant and care for your Geham Grove Botanicals trees

September 2020



### Introduction

We strongly recommend that your holes are dug and you are ready to plant before you order or pick up your trees. If you can't plant straight away, keep your tree in the shade and keep it moist as it is used to being drip watered twice a day.

### Hole

Dig a hole wider and deeper than the pot, so that the root ball is surrounded by loose soil for the roots to grow into. Most of our pots are 600mm wide x 400mm high, but some are 400mm wide x 360mm high.

Don't plant the tree too deep. Keep the soil line at the same level as it was in the pot and ensure that the bud union is above the soil level.

### Planting

Do not loosen or disturb the root ball with tools or your hands as there will be no root circling or tightly wound roots, only a fibrous root ball of fine, dense roots ready to spread and establish the tree.

Backfill with a good quality organic compost mixed with the native soil to give your tree the best start possible. Avoid adding fertiliser to the planting hole as this can 'burn' the roots and kill the tree.

Make a shallow well around the tree to direct water to the root zone.

Add mulch to help maintain soil moisture, but keep it away from the trunk.

### Watering

Water slowly and deeply and use some seaweed tonic to support and boost the root system. Avoid fertilisers for the first month, but apply regular doses of a weak seaweed solution instead.

Water every day or two for the first 1 to 2 weeks (frequency depends upon the weather and temperature) and then 2 to 3 times per week for the first growing season, before reducing to a good weekly water thereafter.

### Staking

An advanced tree grown in an Air Root Pruned Pot is a stable tree which requires far less staking than traditional trees. If the tree is particularly tall and slim, then it may require staking, but this is rare. Use 2 stakes spaced away from the root ball, with hessian straps supporting the trunk from opposite sides.

### Pruning

Prune any damaged branches, but generally avoid heavy pruning for the first year.

