

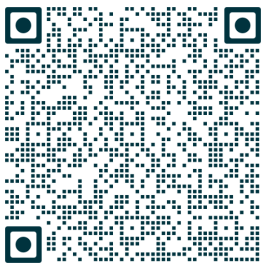
Tree Planting Step-by-Step guide



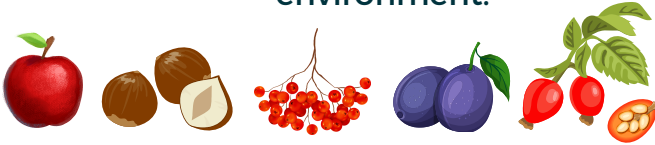
PRIOR TO PLANTING

Food security from the ground up.

Planting and looking after a tree is very simple. We've covered every step of the process in a series of short videos you can access via this QR code:



Fruit and nut trees provide food to harvest in the autumn and have a positive impact on the environment.



Planting trees is best when they're dormant, meaning the trees are "sleeping". Tree planting season in the UK runs November through March.

Cell-grown trees (the ones with roots surrounded by soil) can be planted all year round in moist ground. The soil is easier to dig when damp.

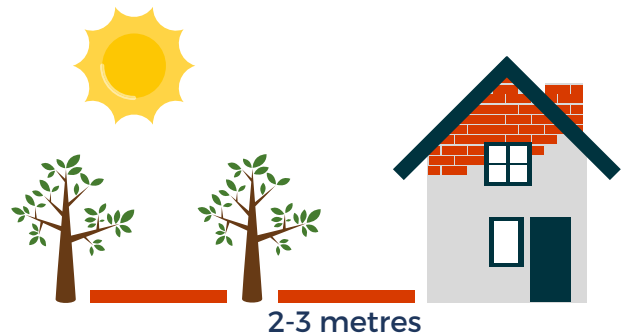


It is important to keep the roots of your saplings damp by placing them in a bucket with some water or moist soil until you plant them.



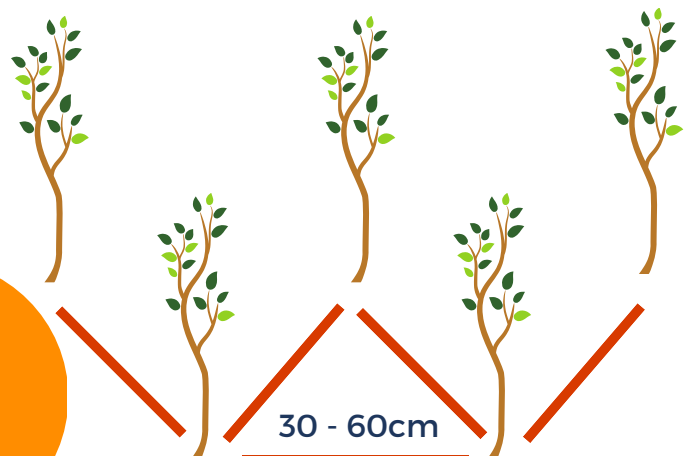
TREE PLANTING STEPS ON THE NEXT PAGE

Trees require full sun and deep, well-drained soil to grow well. Plant your sapling at least 2 - 3 metres away from buildings, fences, other trees and phone lines to avoid damage in years to come as the tree extends its roots, trunk, and branches.



Many species such as Dog Rose, Hazel, Crab Apple, and Blackthorn can be grown as hedges, which is ideal for small spaces.

If you are choosing to plant a hedge, plant the saplings 30 to 60cm apart.



You need:

- Sapling
- Tree guard
- Bamboo cane
- Spade
- Scissors
- Cardboard (e.g. pizza box)
- Mulch (e.g. wood chips, decaying leaves, bark, or compost)

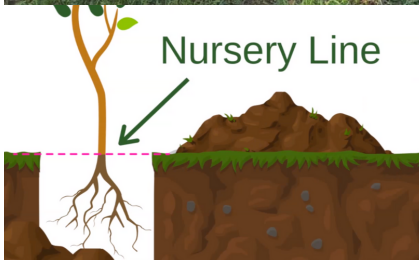


STEP 01



Dig a hole! Ensure your hole is bigger and deeper than the roots of your sapling. Keep your soil nearby. Place the grass layer you have dug up upside down at the bottom of the hole to provide extra nutrients for your tree.

STEP 02



Place your sapling in the newly dug pit:

- the top of the roots should be approx. 2cm below ground level.
- find the line between the stained bark and soil which is called the 'nursery line.'
- line up 'nursery line' with the top of the soil

STEP 03



Refill the hole with soil all around your tree. While you do this, make sure to hold the little trunk upright.

STEP 04



Gently, and carefully **press the soil down** with your heel all around the tree trunk. If the soil around your tree seems dry, water it.

STEP 05



Cut a cardboard circle, approx. 50cm in diameter. Then, cut a straight line from the edge of the circle to the middle of the circle. Insert the cardboard circle around the tree.

STEP
06



Place a 2-3cm layer of mulch over the cardboard. The mulch should not touch the trunk of your tree, as it could potentially damage it. The cardboard and mulch keep the ground moist while suppressing weeds.

STEP
07



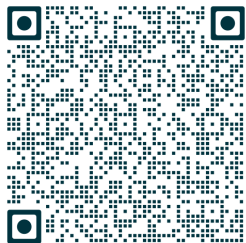
Insert the bamboo cane in the ground approximately 5 cm away from the tree trunk. Roll the tree guard around the bamboo stick and tree trunk from the bottom up and let the base touch the ground.

STEP
08



Check your newly planted tree regularly. The soil around it has to be well drained yet moist so water your tree if required. Hopefully, over the next few weeks, you will see new leaves starting to emerge.

LINKS



If you are not sure which tree to plant, watch our YouTube playlist about various wildlife-friendly scrubs/trees which provide food to harvest in the autumn:

[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLxNmpyt3tVgele_6-tiGb803-II7wPe1K](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxNmpyt3tVgele_6-tiGb803-II7wPe1K)



We are currently working on producing the next video in the series, 'Trees, shrubs and hedge maintenance.' We will share the link in due course on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/harvestathomeuk



Harvest @ Home is an organisation that provides food security from the ground up by supporting people in growing their food. Please visit our website:

<http://harvestathome.uk>

