

Hedge and copse tree planting instructions

Additional information is available to support this pack at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planttrees



1. If you are not planning to plant the trees for a few days, leave them in a suitable location, preferably outdoors, and not somewhere too warm where the soil and roots could dry out.



2. Ensure you're planting in an area that is free from services such as water, gas, electricity and communications. Don't plant too close to buildings as these trees and shrubs can grow quite tall and have a similar spread for branches and roots.



3. Before planting it will be useful to mark out the positions of each tree; use a tape measure or pace out and use sticks or markers as required.



4. The tree roots can be immersed in a bucket of water just before planting if they are very dry.



5. Each tree will require a small pit to be dug with a spade (junior spades are easier for children to use).



6. The pit needs to be at least several centimetres wider and deeper than the root plug, a spade's width and depth should be sufficient. If planting into grass, the turf can be set aside.



7. Place the tree in the pit and check the depth, the root plug should be just below ground level. If working as a pair, one person can backfill the soil carefully but firmly around the root plug while the other person holds the tree upright.



8. Then use the remaining soil to fill the pit pressing down each layer as you go.



9. If you set aside the turf this can be cut in half or quarters.

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10. Place the pieces of turf upside down around the tree. This will help to suppress the grass. The overall aim is to cover the root plug with 25mm of soil.



11. Firm the top layer of soil or turf around the tree by using your heel as shown. Take care not to scrape the tree.



12. Give the tree a gentle tug, it should be firmly in place! If not, repeat step 11.



13. Adding a layer of mulch around the base of the trees is a good way of retaining moisture within the soil and it also helps to suppress grass and weeds.

Mark the area where you have planted your trees to stop mowers from accidentally damaging your trees.

Spacing notes –

As a guide the copse pack trees can be planted from 2m apart (for a very dense wooded area) up to 5m apart or more. They are all medium sized trees and will generally need more space than the hedgerow pack.

If the hedge pack trees are to be planted as a single line hedge, they should be spaced 30cm apart. If they are going to be a thick double row hedge they should be planted in two staggered rows approximately 50cm apart, with each tree 40-45cm apart in the row.

Ongoing tree care –

Newly planted trees don't require much ongoing maintenance. However, it can be useful to keep the mulch topped up as this will ensure the trees don't have competition for water and keep the soil moist in dry spells. After a couple of seasons' growth, the small trees will quickly start to bush out. The hedge species can be left to grow to the size that best suits the location then be cut back at the end of winter before birds start nesting. Check any trees that haven't survived the summer and make a note to replace them the following winter.

To find out more information on how to plant and care for your trees, visit www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planttrees

**Thank you for ordering a Woodland Trust hedge or copse tree pack.
We hope you enjoy planting the trees and watching them grow.**