

### ***Replacing losses***

Please be advised that as with all bare-root planting, you must allow for a small percentage of losses and budget to replace those for the first two or three years. Identify and mark the tube around the dead plants that require replacing during a summer inspection – marking plants will allow you to identify them easily in the winter. Replace trees and hedging plants during the following winter period.

### ***Our Liability Policy***

We are confident that all our plants are fit and healthy when leaving us, however, upon receiving your order please check that you are happy with the condition and the number of plants received.

Please contact us within 7 days of receipt to allow us to address any concerns. Unfortunately we cannot be responsible for any issues raised or the health and welfare of plants following that period.

### ***Why do we have to implement such a policy?***

All of our plants are provided on a supply-only basis and while we are confident as to the health and quality of all plants that we supply, there is no way of us knowing the ground type or conditions planted into, or for us to ensure that the level of care and maintenance advice that we offer is upheld.

That said, we will always do our best to look after our customers and offer you further advice and guidance as required.

### ***We're here to help!***

If you're unsure about any of the information detailed within this guide, we are more than happy to answer any questions that you may have. We have been selling trees and hedging nationally since 1989, and have a plethora of experience and knowledge that we're always keen to share.

**If you have any queries or questions regarding your plants once you've read through the plant welfare guide, we will be more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.**

Thank you for purchasing your plants through  
***[www.treesandhedging.co.uk](http://www.treesandhedging.co.uk)***



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Norton Road, Snitterby, Gainsborough,  
Lincolnshire, DN21 4TZ

Advice Line: 01673 818046  
*Open Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm*

**Plant Welfare Guide  
For Bareroot Plants**

## Quality Checks to be made upon receipt of your order

Please unpack and check your plants using this checklist:

1. Check that the species, plant numbers and height of plants are correct as per your order
2. Check that the roots are damp and in good order. The root structure of species can vary between fibrous and tap rooted, i.e. not so fibrous
3. Check that the plant stems are in a healthy and fresh condition and not dried out or brittle. Remember that your plant is currently in a dormant state so don't expect leaves in full flush
4. For reassurance you can scrape back the stem of the plant (using your fingernail) to reveal green underneath the bark. This represents a healthy plant.
5. Check the plant as a whole to make sure no roots or stems have been broken or damaged during transit

You have 7 days after delivery within which you can raise any concerns you may have. We pride ourselves on the quality of the plants we supply and take great care to package them well with plant welfare being our utmost priority. So please ensure you carry out the checks as soon as you can.

Following the next points in this leaflet will help you ensure the healthy plants you have received remain that way

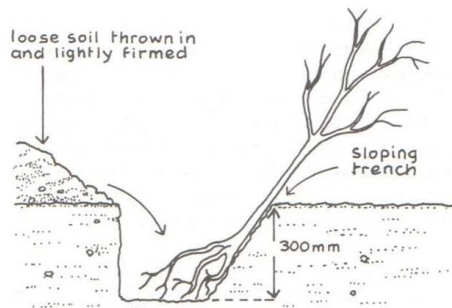
## How to look after your plants upon receiving them

All trees and hedging plants should be planted within one week of delivery or collection from our yard.

Your plants can be 'heeled in' immediately or alternatively will remain healthy in their bags for those 7 days. Make sure the bags containing plants are stored in a cool building overnight and are kept out of the elements. Any overnight frost contact with the bags can be damaging to the plants.

If you are unable to plant them within this time period, we recommend that you 'heel' your plants into the ground for safe storage and to prevent the health of your plants degrading. 'Heeled-in' plants will store happily throughout the winter period until you are ready to plant them.

## Temporarily heeling your plants in



1. Start by digging a V-shaped trench, wide enough and deep enough to hold the roots of the plants you are to heel in. Remove the plants from any packaging, and place them at an angle in the trench in their bundles, so that the roots are at the bottom and the trunk or base of the plant rests up the side of the trench.

2. Backfill the trench with soil to cover the roots. You can then use your heel to firm the plants in and remove any air pockets.

3. Water the plants once in position. They will stay there quite happily throughout the winter period. Do not remove or try to plant during frost or snow conditions. Be wary of leaving plants beyond the planting season as you do not wish them to break dormancy prior to planting them in their permanent position. The 'rule of thumb' deadline is generally around mid-April, dependent upon the timing of spring.

## Removing heeled in plants

1. When you are ready to relocate the plants to their permanent position, gently remove and loosen the soil from the trench. We recommend using a trowel or your fingers, instead of a spade or shovel, to prevent accidentally damaging the roots. When you feel the bundles becoming loose then pull from the ground and gently shake off any excess soil from the roots.

2. If the roots have remained damp then place your plants within a planting bag in readiness for planting. Alternatively, it wouldn't harm to give them a 'drink' prior to planting. Fill a bucket with water and place the plant roots within. Allow them to soak for 5-10 minutes. Drain off and place within the planting bag.

## Planting your trees and hedging DO NOT PLANT IF THE GROUND IS FROZEN OR WATERLOGGED

Planting your plants is an easy task, as bare-rooted plants can be notched - planted. Here's how:

1. If not already decided upon, find a suitable position for your plants, bearing in mind future growth and potential height x spread at maturity.

2. Begin by inserting the blade of a spade into the ground, push the spade handle away from you and then bring it back towards you. Once you remove the spade, you will see that you have created a cavity in the ground.

3. Place the plant roots within the cavity and shake to ensure that all of the roots are pointing downwards.

4. Use your heel to firm the soil around the plant to remove any air pockets. Once planted, give them a good water to aid recovery.

## Fitting plant protection

Any plant protection should then be securely fitted following planting.

Firstly, secure the cane or stake next to the planted plant, then follow up and fit the guard as the final task.

Spirals and Tubex Easywraps should be placed over both the plant and the cane – the only purpose of the cane is to hold the spiral or Easywrap up.

Netguards should be held up with two canes in opposite corners of the guard.

Stakes should remain on the outside of Tubex Tree Tubes and Shrub Shelters.

Tubex guards come pre-fitted with a ratchet tie on the tube.

## Maintaining your plants

To increase prospects for survival and subsequent growth rate, the implementation of a maintenance programme is essential.

Lack of weeding is the biggest single killer of young planted trees. It is far cheaper to weed than to replace dead trees. Weeded trees establish faster and need less maintenance overall. However, when planting bare-root stock, it is not unusual for natural losses to occur. Always budget for a small percentage of failures to be replaced in the first two years following planting.

You must eradicate weed competition at the base of plants for the first three growing seasons. This can be done by chemical means or by hand weeding.

## Maintaining plants with protection fitted

If you have protection on the plants, you can safely spray the base to kill off weeds and grasses with Glyphosate (Round-up) or other herbicides, without risk of chemical touching the plants.

Check at least twice a year that all protective sundries are securely fitted and replace where necessary. Protection should be maintained for at least 5 years.

## Maintaining plants without protection fitted

If you do not plan to use plant protection, we suggest securing weed control fabric to the ground prior to planting in order to suppress any weed competition. Attempting to spray plants without protection would be very, very risky. Young plants are either killed or experience severe growth check if they come into contact with the chemical.