

This Plant Welfare Guide contains our top tips and recommendations to ensure the plants you have received remain healthy and flourish.

**On receipt of your order we recommend you unpack and check your plants using this checklist:**

1. Check that the species, quantity 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 plants are currently in a dormant state, so unlikely to have 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 whole plant 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.



Thank you for recycling all packaging materials.

The Forestry bag we specifically use to protect your plants in transit is fully recyclable at your local recycling centre.



Thank you for purchasing your plants from  
British Hardwood Tree Nursery.

*Our Liability Policy*

We are confident that all our plants are fit and healthy when leaving us. On 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.

All our plants are provided on a supply-only basis. 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.

*Managing 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.

We recommend you identify and mark the plants that require replacing during a summer inspection. Marking plants will allow you to easily identify them in the winter. Replace trees and hedging plants during the following winter period.

**HERE TO HELP AND ADVISE**

Our Plant Welfare Guide has been designed to give you detailed advice to help you successfully grow your bare root plants.

If you have any queries or questions regarding your plants once you have read through your Plant Welfare Guide, we will be more than happy to help. In addition, you'll find lots of information on our website.

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Monday-Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

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**British Hardwood  
Tree Nursery** EST. 1989

**Plant Welfare Guide  
For Bare Root Plants**

## How to look after your plants upon receiving them

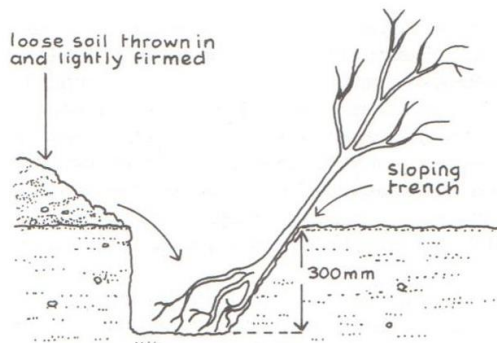
All trees and hedging plants should be planted within one week of delivery or collection from British Hardwood Tree Nursery. Your plants can be 'heeled in' immediately or alternatively will remain healthy in their Forestry bags for those 7 days.

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 in' your plants

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. 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 (hence the name 'heeling in').
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 (typically mid-April, depending on the timing of Spring) as you do not wish them to break dormancy prior to planting them in their permanent position.

### 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.
2. When you feel the plants coming loose pull them from the ground, gently shaking off any excess soil from the roots.
3. 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

PLEASE DO NOT PLANT IF THE GROUND IS FROZEN OR WATERLOGGED

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

Planting your plants is an easy task, as bare rooted plants can be 'notch' planted in three easy steps:

1. 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 or 'notch' in the ground.
2. Place the plant roots within the cavity and shake to ensure that all of the roots are pointing downwards.
3. 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 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. Below are some tips on fitting the various types of protection.

**Spiral Guards** and **Tubex Easywraps** should be placed over both the plant and the cane. The only purpose of the cane is to hold the *Spiral Guard* or *Easywrap* up. Note - *Spiral Guards* are supplied in wraps of 5 – be sure to separate these prior to fitting them.

**Mesh Guards** should be held up with two canes in opposite corners of the guard.

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

Eradicating weed competition at the base of plants for the first three growing seasons gives your plants the greatest chance of success. 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 herbicides to the base to kill off weeds and grasses, without risk of chemicals touching the plants.

Check at least twice a year that all plant protection is still securely fitted and replace where necessary. Protection should be maintained for at least 5 years.

### Maintaining plants without protection fitted

Attempting to spray plants without protection could be very risky. Young plants are either killed or experience severe growth check if they come into contact with the chemicals. 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.