

# Plant Welfare Guide

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## INTRODUCTION

This Plant Welfare Guide contains detailed advice and tips to ensure your plants remain healthy and flourish.

**If you have any questions, once you have read through this Plant Welfare Guide, please do contact us so we can help.**

Visit our website for more guidance and advice, including installation guides for planting accessories.



We are **Plant Healthy certified**. The Plant Healthy scheme is one of the strictest audits for our sector and our certification is a recognition of the importance we place on plant biosecurity here at British Hardwood Tree Nursery.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our plants and planting accessories, taking great care to package them well, with plant welfare being our utmost priority. We are confident that all our plants are fit and healthy when leaving us.

## >>> CHECKLIST ON ARRIVAL

On receiving your order, please check that you are happy with the condition and the number of plants received.

Carefully unpack all your plants and plant protection on arrival. Keep packaging intact until you have counted your order.

- ✓ Confirm species, quantity and height of plants and plant protection are as per your order.
- ✓ **For Bare Root plants:** Confirm the roots are in good order and damp after transit. Please note the root structures of bare root plants can vary between being fibrous (thin and shallow) and tap rooted (longer and deeper) depending on the species.
- ✓ **For Cell Grown plants:** Confirm that the soil around the plant roots is intact, damp and the plant itself is in good order after transit.
- ✓ Confirm that stems are healthy. Your plants are dormant, so unlikely to have leaves in full flush. For reassurance scrape back the stem of the plant using your fingernail to reveal green underneath the bark. This is a healthy plant.



Please raise any concerns about your delivery **within 7 days of receipt** and before planting out.

We cannot be held responsible for any issues raised after this period. See our Terms and Conditions for more details on our *Plant Welfare and Loss Replacement Policy (Section 11)*.

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



Please reuse or **recycle packaging** material. The bespoke Forestry bag we use to protect your plants in transit is recyclable at your local recycling centre.

## STORAGE BEFORE PLANTING

Having unpacked and checked your order on arrival, **either** plant immediately **or** see storage options below.

All trees and hedging plants should **ideally be planted within one week of delivery**.

**For Bare Root plants:** You can repack and store your plants for up to 7 days from delivery in the Forestry Bags they arrived in. They will remain healthy for this period if stored in a cool building away from the elements and any frost.

If you are unable to plant within 7 days, we recommend you temporarily 'heel' your plants into the ground (see Fig 1), enabling them to be happily stored throughout the winter period until you are ready to plant out.

**For Cell Grown plants:** Store your cell grown plants in a sheltered spot outside, in an upright position and away from drying winds.

It is important to ensure the soil in the cell remains moist (but not waterlogged) prior to planting.

Fig 1



### How to temporarily 'heel in' Bare Root plants

Dig a V-shaped trench – wide and deep enough to hold the roots of the plants (approx. 30cm deep).

Place your plants at an angle in the trench in their bundles, with the roots at the bottom and the trunk or base of the plants resting up the side of the trench.

Backfill with soil to cover the roots, using your heel to firm the plants in and remove any air pockets (hence the name 'heeling in'). Once in position, ideally give them a good water if practical to do so.



### Ready for planting? How to remove heeled in Bare Root plants

Take hold of the bundle as close to the root collars as possible and gently move it back and forth to loosen the soil.

When you feel the bundle coming loose pull it from the ground, gently shaking off any excess soil.

If the roots have remained damp, then place your plants back in the Forestry bag they arrived in ready for planting out. Alternatively, you can give them a 'drink' prior to planting. Fill a container with water and soak the roots for 5-10 minutes. Drain off and place in the Forestry bag ready for planting out. Avoid moving plants during frost or snow.

**Tip:** Bare root plants are better planted into their permanent position when still dormant, so avoid leaving plants heeled in beyond the bare root 'season', typically mid-April, depending on the timing of Spring.

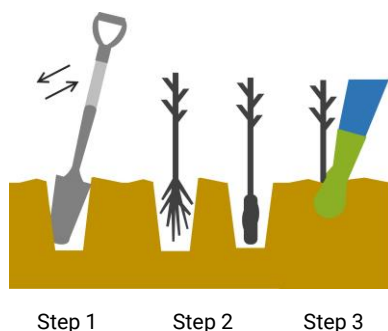
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## PLANTING

Planting your bare root or cell grown plants is a straightforward task. However, do not attempt to plant if the ground is frozen or waterlogged. Find a suitable position for your plants, bearing in mind future growth and potential height and spread at maturity.

Fig 2



Bare rooted or cell grown plants can be 'notch' planted in 3 steps (Fig 2):

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 or cell within the cavity. For bare root plants - shake the plant to ensure that all of the roots are in the cavity and pointing downwards.
3. Fill the cavity with soil. Use your heel to firm the soil around the plant to remove any air pockets.

Once planted, give them a good water if practical to do so.

## PROTECTION

Plant protection gives your plants a chance to establish themselves in their early years and should be securely fitted following planting. We recommend installing the cane or stake next to the planted plant, then fitting the protection as the final task.

Where to locate the support for your plant protection:

### Tubex/Rainbow/Other Tree Tubes and Shrub Shelters

Install the stake on the *outside* of the tube or shelter (Fig 3).

### Spiral Guards and Tubex Easywraps

Install the cane on the *inside* of the spiral or wrap.

### Mesh Guard with Spray Shield

Install two canes in opposite corners on the *inside* of the guard.

**Tip:** Plant protection is often delivered in 'nests' (one tube inside the other).

Be sure to separate before installing.

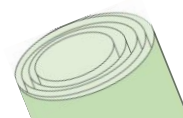
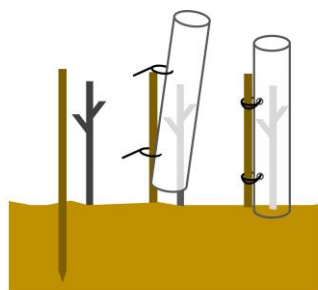


Fig 3



Visit our website for more installation guides.

Fig 4



For **hedging**, create and maintain a **1m wide** weed free strip around the base of your plants.

For **trees**, create and maintain a **1m diameter** weed free area around the base of your tree.

## MAINTENANCE

A maintenance programme is essential to increase survival and growth rates. Weeded trees and hedging plants establish faster and need less maintenance overall.

Weed free areas (Fig 4) can be created by manually weeding, chemical spraying (if plant protection is in place), and/or laying weed control fabric/mulching.

### Maintenance with protection

If you have protection on the plants, you can safely ring spray herbicides to the base of your plants 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. Maintain protection ideally for at least 5 years and then remove.

### Maintenance without protection

If you do not have protection fitted, we would recommend securing weed control fabric to the ground prior to planting in order to easily suppress weed competition.

### Managing losses

Please be advised that as with all planting schemes, you must allow for a small percentage of losses and budget to replace those for the first two or three years.

**Tip:** Identify and mark the plants that require replacing during a summer inspection, making them easy to locate and replace during the following winter period.

## MONITORING

Staying in touch with your planting scheme for at least 3 years (ideally 5 years) is vital to its success. Checking in on growth rates, replacements needed and weeding around the base of your plants will help deliver a successful scheme.

Once plants are established (typically from year 3 to 5 onwards), you can either leave the plant protection in place to biodegrade (if 100% biodegradable), or you can begin the phased removal for industrial composting, recycling or to create energy from waste.

It is at this stage your plants can 'go it alone'.

Fig 5

