

Planting Irish Native Bare Rooted Trees

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Materials you will need: Native bare rooted trees, a spade, newspaper/cardboard, bark mulch/leaves/grass clippings

1. Use a spade to take a circular sod of turf out of the ground, slightly wider than the roots of the tree. Turn it over and split it almost in half.



2. Loosen the soil in the hole to a depth of about 15cm. Add some compost and dig it in to the soil.



3. Look for the "collar". This is the mark on the tree from where it originally started to grow above ground. This should be level with the top of the soil. If a tree is planted too deep, the stem may rot; too shallow and the roots above ground will dry out and die. Put

the tree in the hole and check the depth.



4. Hold the tree upright and gently push back the soil, pressing it down onto the roots. Don't compact the soil as this will stop water and air circulation, but make sure your tree is steady and not falling over.



5. Put the turf back over the hole with the split either side of the young tree, with the grass side down. Trample down lightly with your feet.



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6. For more effective weed control, it is a good idea to place several layers of damp newspaper or cardboard around the base of your trees. Soak it in a barrel or leave it sit outside for a few days to get wet. Cover this with a layer of bark mulch, grass clipping or leaves, to prevent it from blowing away.



When can I plant a bare-rooted tree?

Bare rooted trees can be planted any time between October and March. Before you start, take a look around your neighbourhood and work out which species of native trees are growing locally. This will give you an idea of what might do well in your soil.

What trees will like to grow in my garden?

Most trees can grow in a range of soil types, but some will not grow well in certain conditions. The guide below will give you an idea of which trees are suitable for your site (but remember that some trees will grow anywhere, no matter what the books say!).

Damp Sites; Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Poplar, Willow, Rowan

Coastal Areas; Strawberry tree, Hawthorn, Ash, Holly, Oak, Willow, Whitebeam, Rowan, Poplar, Blackthorn

Cold, Exposed Sites; Ash, Birch, Hawthorn, Poplar, Oak, Rowan, Yew, Whitebeam

Shallow Soils; Birch, Hawthorn, Rowan, Crab Apple, Whitebeam, Cherry, Yew

Industrial Areas; Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Ash, Willow, Holly, Crab Apple, Poplar, Rowan, Yew, Bird cherry

Heavy, Clay Soils; Alder, Birch, Hawthorn, Ash, Holly, Crab Apple, Poplar, Blackthorn, Oak, Willow, Whitebeam, Yew

Urban Streets and Confined Spaces; Birch, Cherry, Rowan

Weeding: If you have placed newspaper or cardboard and mulched around your tree, it is good practice to top it up each spring in the first couple of years after planting, as it helps the trees grow more quickly.

If you didn't place mulch around your tree, the vegetation should be cut or trampled down each year for the first couple of years. Grass competition is what stops most trees from growing well.

Watering: You should only need to water your trees after a very long dry spell (very rare in Ireland!). The trees should adapt to the site and shouldn't need additional water in normal conditions.

Tree guards: If there are rabbits or hares in your area, you may need to place a tree guard around your tree. Remove any grass growing inside the guard. Once the tree has grown to over 3m, remove the guard. If they remain intact, you can use these guards again to protect any other young trees you plant.

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