

LEAF Activity

PLANTING IRISH NATIVE BARE ROOT TREES

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Bare root trees can be planted anytime between October and March. Before you start, take a look around your neighbourhood and work out which species of native tree are growing– this will give you an idea of what might do well in your soil. Most trees can grow in a range of soil types but some will not withstand certain conditions, the guide below will give you an idea of which trees are suitable for your site.

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, 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, Poplar, Blackthorn, Oak, Willow, Whitebeam, Yew

Urban Streets and Confined Spaces; Birch, Cherry, Rowan

Materials

Native bare root trees, a spade, some newspaper, a watering can or container of water.

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.



3 Look for the “collar” – 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 die. Put the tree in the hole and check the depth.



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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.



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



6 For more effective weed control it is a good idea to place several layers of newspaper around your tree, wet them with the watering and cover with a layer of bark mulch to prevent it from blowing away.



Weeding

If you have placed newspaper/mulch around your tree it could be topped up each spring in the first couple of years after planting.

If you didn't place newspaper around your tree the vegetation should be cut or trampled down each year for the first couple of years.

Watering

You should only need to water your trees after a very long dry spell. 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 more young trees you plant.