

# Tips for Planting Forestry Seedlings

## 1. Prepare the soil

- Shovel holes - roughen to allow proper drainage and avoid root restriction due to glazed surfaces
- Mass planting - consider ripping 50cm deep, two rip lines 40cm apart and plant in between (cross ripping improves plant stability)
- Prepare the site six months in advance to allow air pockets to settle and rainfall to penetrate
- Firm the plant in well in two stages during planting and heel into finish
- Water before and after planting

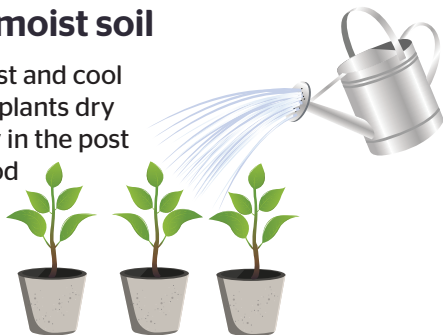


## 2. Keep weed free

- The most important tip is to keep the soil bare for at least 1m diameter circle around the tree and mulch
- While herbicides are easy, don't spray the tree and be careful and safe
- Mowing will not kill weeds and grasses
- Weed regularly

## 3. Maintain moist soil

- Keep soil moist and cool - don't let the plants dry out especially in the post planting period



## 4. Use hardened stock

- Not direct from shade house or protected storage
- Acclimatise to local conditions
- Harden plants in partial shade for three weeks and gradually reduce watering frequency

## 5. Encourage strong root development

- Dig the hole 10-30cm deeper than the plant container
- Avoid damaging roots
- Loosen or prune pot bound or circular roots and prune approx. 1/3 of the leaf to compensate for the loss of water uptake
- Only stake advanced plants using more than one stake - don't bind too tight



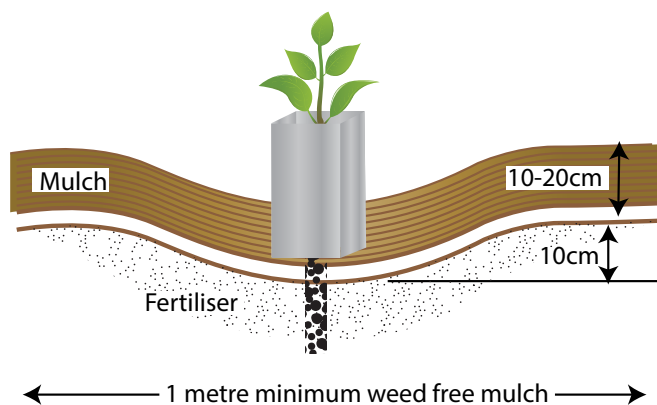
## 6. Conserve water

- Dish the planting spot to 10cm to hold water
- Mulch around trees, but not hard up against stem. Use straw, gravel, sawdust, woodchips, newspaper or any other organic materials
- Use a protective cover / grow tube



## 7. Fertilise but weed control first

- Spread 50-100g of Starter (balanced fertiliser) in the weed free zone 4-6 weeks after planting - just before rain is ideal
- OR fertiliser/slow release fertiliser may be placed in a shovel slit or crowbar hole 30-40cm uphill from the tree
- Slow release fertilisers (tree tablets, Osmocote etc) may also be applied at the time of planting- dig the hole deeper, place the fertiliser at the base, cover with 10cm of soil and then plant the tree
- Repeat applications every 6-12 months until well established
- Do not encourage lush growth prior to frosts - avoid early and late fertilising



## 8. Animals and trees don't mix

- Individual guards must be strong and allow for plant growth
- Fencing is generally cheaper and more reliable
- Trees grow better in groups
- Hares and rabbits are a major problem - destroy them or protect the plants



## 9. Extra protection helps greatly

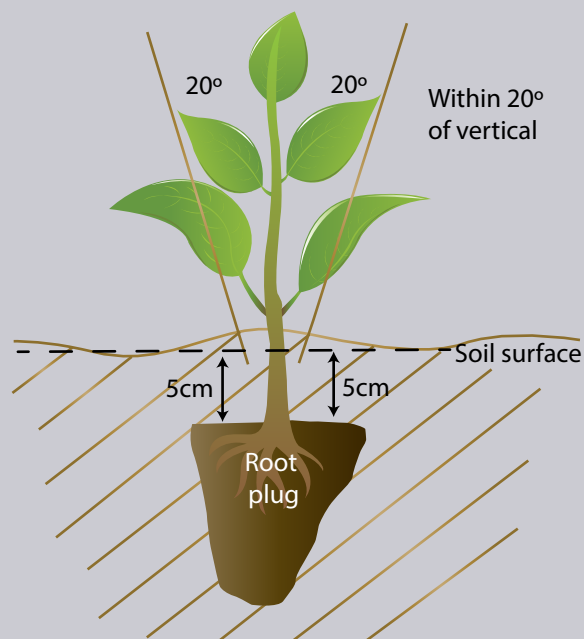
- Three stakes and a U.V. stable grow tube:
  - protects from pests, wind and sprays
  - increases carbon dioxide (plant food)
  - condenses dew and mist
  - warms and humidifies
  - gives faster growth
- Old fertiliser bags also work but only last up to twelve months
- Old tyres (two high is best), old milk or juice cartons, hessian and netting guards provide partial benefits

## 10. Don't forget them

- Check on your trees - maintenance is the key to survival
- Treat serious insect attacks and grass/weed regrowth promptly
- Keep fences in good repair
- Care and attention means a healthy tree which is less prone to insect or disease attack
- Early care pays off in the longer term
- Remember that care during the first year is just as important as the planting technique.

## Instructions for Planting Seedlings

- Place fertiliser at the base of the hole and cover with 10cm of soil
- Square tubes - tap them invert tube and tip plant out of tube
- Hiko's - push the plant out from the base of the tray
- Place plant in hole
- Fill hole with soil
- Water in to remove any air pockets
- Tamp down/firm in
- Mulch
- Water well



## For more information contact

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