



blerick tree farm

www.dialatree.com.au

55 McDougal Road, Neerim South, 3831, Victoria.

Ph: (03)56281507 Mbl: 0417 535 917

Web: www.dialatree.com.au Email: admin@blerick.com.au

Blerick Tree Farm – Planting Guide

HOW TO TRANSPORT & PLANT A CONTAINERISED TREE

Getting Your Plants Home Safely

- Don't wind burn them on the way home.
- Keep the soil moist

Transporting leafy trees in open trailers or utes can result in severe wind damage. The tree needs to be transported in a covered vehicle, or with a tarp draped over the foliage. If you do not have a suitable method of transporting your trees, delivery can be arranged.

If you transport your plants in a car, do not leave the car parked in a sunny position. Should you have to park, park in the shade and leave the window down.

Test Your Soil

Poor drainage, caused by clay or compacted soil, will result in the tree yellowing and eventually dying, so test your soil before planting. Dig a hole and fill it with water. If the water stays in the hole for hours then it is not suitable for the tree and some extra precautions will need to be taken. Either raised planting or the landscape will need to be modified with drainage.

Caring For Your Plants

All of our plants are drip irrigated twice a day during summer and the potting mix is always moist. Initially your plant needs a similar water regime when at home, to maintain strong healthy growth and to prevent them from wilting. One way this can be achieved is with a water bladder bag. Please ask about these.

Over time this watering regime should be reduced to a couple of deep waterings two or three times a week.

Planting

If planting into lawn it may be necessary to use a mallet to loosen the lawn before you can dig a hole. Remove a large circle of lawn so it doesn't invade the base of the tree.

The planting hole should always be at least twice the width of the container. Also make it a few centimetres deeper than it needs to be because you need to break the soil up to allow the roots to grow down easily.

Place slow-release fertiliser or Agriform nutrient tablet and some water holding crystals or water crystal gel bag in the bottom of the hole - the fertiliser should not come into contact with the roots of the tree as this can cause a fertiliser burn.

The water crystal gel bag can be hydrated in a seasol Tm solution (1 capful to 10 litres of water).

The root ball should be thoroughly watered before planting.

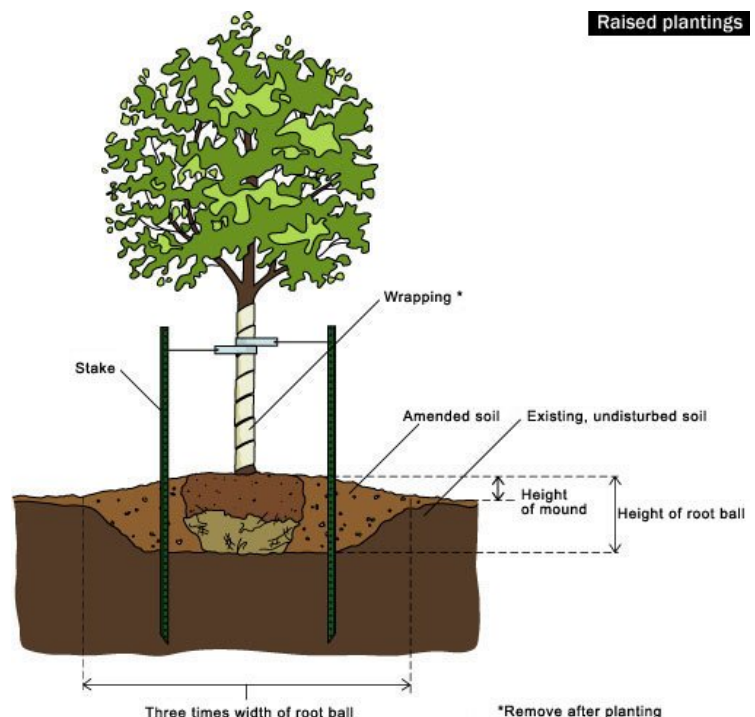
Gently tease out roots which are tightly clustered around the edge of the root ball to enable them more easily to spread outwards and penetrate the surrounding soil.

In most cases the top of the root ball should be just level with the soil surface. If you have poorly draining soil or live in a wet area, plant the tree on a slight mound so water drains away from the root ball. See raised planting diagram.

Backfill with soil, firm in and water with remaining diluted Seasol.

Cover the soil surface to an area about 30-45cm larger than the tree's root system with a good organic mulch. Keep the mulch clear of the stem, creating a well. A small well allows you to place some water there that will soak gradually into the soil.

To assist with future watering you may wish to put a 50cm length of agipipe into the hole next to the tree at the time of planting. This will direct water to the root system



Staking:

Staking newly planted trees is necessary only if there is a risk of the root ball moving in the ground; movement prevents the establishment of new roots and impedes growth. Staking is recommended for trees that are greater than 1.5m in height, otherwise it is better to allow young trees to flex in the wind, and so develop a sturdy, flexible trunk with a proper tapering shape from base to top.

If staking is necessary, using a mallet, hammer two or three stakes outside the area of the root ball, remove the twist ties, label and supporting stake. Ties should be broad and soft; Hessian or nylon webbing or old pantyhose are ideal as they stretch - AVOID any material that could cut into the bark of the tree. The ties should be tied in a figure-of-eight form around the stake and the tree trunk - this allows the trunk to move whilst still offering the tree support. Place ties high enough to stabilise the tree but low enough to allow some trunk movement. If necessary prune off any weak or low branches.

The ties will have to remain in place for the first year, until the tree can support itself. If the ties around the trunk are too tight, the tree will grow into them damaging itself.

Using two or three stakes

