

Planting bare-root trees

Planting a tree and watching it grow is special - seeing fresh new leaves developing in spring, blossom forming, berries ripening and birds feeding; witnessing the lifecycle of the tree through the changing seasons, year after year.



When you plant a tree at Cothiemuir Hill, we will prepare the hole for planting and will put in the supporting stake. Everything will be on hand, ready for you to plant the tree, as follows:

- the bare-rooted tree
- a pile of soil next to the hole ready to go back in around the roots
- spades to put back the soil
- a landscaping fabric mat to hold back weeds to be laid on the turf around the tree
- a sack of bark mulch to spread out on top of the landscaping fabric
- and a spiral guard to keep the rabbits off or a tree tube if required

You should bring gardening gloves, Wellies and warm coats - tell others to dress warmly too.

What you need to do is:

1. come prepared to get your hands and possibly knees muddy
2. take the tree out of the bag
3. place it into the hole next to the stake so that the roots spread evenly and the branches don't clash with the stake
4. make sure that the tree's growth line is level with the grass surface
5. scrape in some fine, loose soil
6. jiggle the tree so that the soil settles around the roots
7. backfill the hole with all the rest of the soil and press down around the tree with your boots
8. put the turf back upside down so the grass is facing down (to help to stop it growing and competing with the tree)
9. firm the soil and turf again with your feet and then lay the fabric mulch mat around the tree
10. empty the sack of mulch over the mulch mat and spread out in a neat thick layer
11. carefully wrap the spiral guard around the base of the tree or slide the tree tube down the tree taking care not to damage any side shoots
12. slide the guard/tube down so that the bottom is pushed into the soil
13. buckle up the tree tie strap

Stand back and admire your work!