



Cultural Instructions For Ornamental Trees

Pot Grown trees

Dig a hole that is the same depth as the pot, but two to three times the diameter. Spike the sides and base of the hole with a fork if the soil is compacted. Carefully remove the tree/shrub from its pot and gently tease out its roots. We recommend the use of Mycorrhizal Fungi (rootgrow™, which is available from Ken Muir) to encourage strong root growth and aid establishment. This should be sprinkled at the bottom of the hole, following the recommended application rates, and the tree/shrub positioned directly on top, so that its roots come into contact with it. Refill the hole carefully, making sure that the tree is planted to the same depth as it was in its pot, and gently firm. Stake with a tree stake and two tree ties so that it is fully supported and to prevent wind rock from damaging the roots.

Bare-rooted Trees

Prior to planting, if the roots look dry, soak them for up to half an hour (no longer) in a bucket of water. Bare rooted shrubs/trees need to be planted quickly. When it is not practical to do so, for instance during inclement weather, you can store them for a few days in an unheated but protected position like a garage or garden shed, or you can “heel them in” by planting them, covered with loose soil that should be slightly moist. Plants that have been “heeled in” can be kept like that for several weeks, but it is best to plant them in their final position as soon as you can and before they show any signs of coming out of dormancy.

When it comes to planting, dig a hole slightly wider and deeper, than the roots. The aim is that the tree/shrub should be planted to the same depth as the old soil mark on its trunk/stems. We recommend the use of rootgrow™ to help encourage strong root growth and aid establishment. This should be sprinkled evenly into the base of the hole, following the recommended application rate. It is important, when planting, that the roots are in contact with the rootgrow™ and that they are carefully spread out, making a note of where they are so that you do not damage them when you insert a stake. Refill the hole with soil and gently firm it down. Stake with a tree stake and two tree ties so that it is fully supported and to prevent wind rock from damaging the roots.

Ornamental Trees

Acer negundo ‘Flamingo’

Will grow well in most moist but free-draining soils, in full sun to part shade, but does best in a sheltered position. A reasonably fast-growing tree, if left unpruned it can reach a height and spread of around 10-15m (32-50ft) x 8m (26ft) when mature, but this can be kept down considerably by hard pruning in early spring. This also has the benefit of encouraging strong new growth with more enhanced leaf colours. Like all variegated trees, any shoots/branches that show signs of reversion, should be pruned out promptly. Feed annually with a general granular plant food each spring.

Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree)

Plant in a well-drained soil in a sunny position, preferably sheltered from north and east winds. Lime tolerant and very hardy it also does well in coastal areas. Pruning is not normally

necessary other than to cut back any weak, straggly branches. This should be carried out in the spring. A general granular feed can also be applied at this time. Maximum height and spread in 10 years, 3m (10ft).

Euonymus planipes

Will thrive in most soils, in full sun to part shade. Pruning is not normally necessary unless to remove any diseased, damaged, crossing or congested shoots, or those that are spoiling the shape of the tree. Any pruning should be undertaken in late winter or early spring and a general granular plant food applied. Eventual height and spread 2.5 m (8ft) to 3 m (10ft).

Ornamental Cherries (Prunus)

Ornamental cherries will grow in any free draining soil, in a sunny, sheltered position. They require very little in the way of pruning and any that is carried out should be done after flowering, between the months of April and July, to reduce the risk of silver leaf infection. A general granular plant food should be applied each spring.

Prunus 'Chocolate Ice' & 'Snow Showers'

Plant in a well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position, to get the best displays of blossom. Trees should be staked when young. Little in the way of pruning is required and just involves removing any diseased, damaged, congested or crossing shoots or anything that is growing in the wrong direction and spoiling the shape of the tree. Pruning should be carried out in spring, after flowering.

Top Worked (Grafted) Prunus Trees

These trees have been top worked (grafted), which should help to keep them compact. For the best displays of blossom, trees should be planted in a well-drained soil in a sunny, sheltered position. We suggest using a John Innes No.3 compost if you intend to grow them in containers. For support, a short sturdy stake or a thick bamboo cane should be used, so that the head of the tree is firmly supported.

Prunus Little Pink Perfection'

Requires the minimum of pruning, simply removing any diseased, damaged, congested or crossing shoots or anything that is spoiling the shape of the tree. This should be carried out in spring, directly after flowering.

Prunus 'Frisly Frock™'

To enhance its variegation and improve leaf size, prune back all weeping growth, hard (almost right back to its point of origin) each spring, after flowering, as this will encourage attractive vigorous new growth, that will replace it.