

# Tree Care Guide

## Planting

Dig a hole roughly twice the size of the pot and back fill with some general purpose compost. We recommend using a 'rootgrow' planting partner to aid establishment. The top of the soil in the pot should be at about ground level. Water well and firm in, making sure there are no air pockets. If the tree is in an exposed site use a stake and tie to keep it steady for the first few years whilst it gets established. And if there is any danger of rabbits then put a guard around the trunk or they may strip the bark and harm the tree!

## Facts about your tree

### Acer Campestre

Common name: Field Maple, Hedge Maple

Height: 50-82ft

Width: 30-50ft

Tolerates wet conditions

Growth rate medium. It can grow in semi-shade (light woodland) or no shade. It prefers moist soil. The plant can tolerate strong winds.

Good Autumn colour and early attractive catkins are a good. Source of food for early emerging Bumble Bees.

### Betula Pendula

Height: 60-75ft

Width: 20-30ft

Growth rate medium

Very graceful with butter yellow leaves and in Autumn it has attractive bark. In the winter purple twigs.

Bears long catkins and is good for wildlife.

### Prunus Avium

Height: 50-105ft

Width: 25-40ft

Growth rate medium

Beautiful Spring flowers and stunning Autumn colour. Very good not just for birds but all wildlife.

### Sorbus Aucuparia

Height: 18-30ft

Width: 10-15ft

Growth rate medium

Good on wet soil

Very strong Autumn colour

The flowers are loved by Bees and Butterflies

The large clusters of bright red berries are loved by birds.

### Helpful tips

**Watering** - young trees will need to be watered in the first season, especially if planted in the spring. A full watering can twice a week will help the tree put strong roots down, more if the weather is dry. Trees planted in the autumn should require less watering as the roots will have had the winter to settle in. If your tree is to be kept in a container then more frequent watering is likely to be necessary, especially in hot weather.

**Feeding** - trees do not need fertiliser unless the soil is particularly poor or they are being kept in a container. If so, a general liquid fertiliser applied in February or March before spring growth is ideal.

**Mulching** - A good mulch of bark chippings around the base of the tree will reduce competition for nutrients from grass and weeds and to make the tree healthier and stronger. A circle of mulch covering at least a foot from the base is perfect. Do not apply weed killers such as glyphosate around young trees as it could kill them.

**Pruning** - Many trees can be pruned hard in winter to reduce their size. Apples and pears can be pruned at any time of the year; stone fruit e.g. plums and cherries, are best pruned in late summer. Pruning off tips in late June/early July will encourage flower and fruit buds the following year; winter pruning encourages more vegetative growth. Prune off unproductive 'feathers' (lower shoots) on fruit tree stems and remove any suckers that may appear from the base.



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