

East Devon District Council Countryside Service

Tree Planting Guide

Caring for our trees



What trees to plant:

Trees provide numerous benefits and greatly enhance our environment. Different combinations of foliage, flowers, fruits and bark add interest to the landscape and give us pleasure in all seasons. A little thought when choosing a tree helps avoid problems and makes sure the tree is right for the location.

Think about the potential size of the tree and suitability for the soil type and climate. Some species will be more suitable than others for exposed coastal areas. Evergreen trees can be effective for screening, but may also block light. Fruits, twigs

and leaves dropping from trees can be a nuisance, and some trees have branches prone to breakage. Rates of growth vary, as do overall shapes, structures and densities. Have a look though some books on trees and see which species appeal. A good basic guide is 'The Tree and Shrub Expert' by Dr D G Hessayon.

If the Council permits the felling of protected trees, a condition is normally used requiring that replacements be planted. Sometimes, the choice of species will be left to the property owner. In other cases, the Council may specify particular species that would be suitable for the site



Where to plant:

Bear in mind how large a tree is likely to grow, and try not to plant trees too close to buildings and other structures such as walls and paths. Planting trees too close together may result in them suppressing one another as they grow. If the Council has asked for a replacement tree to be planted, the approximate location required may be specified (e.g. the front garden of the property).

How to plant:

Trees are available in various sizes, ranging from small seedlings to semi-mature specimens. A typical tree is called a 'Standard', which will be about 2.5m in height. Trees may be bought bare rooted, containerised or root-balled. The best period for planting is between October and March, although containerised trees can be planted throughout the year if cared for properly.

When planting, dig a square hole of about 1m in diameter for a standard tree. It is not usually necessary to add any compost or fertiliser, unless the soil is very poor. Beware of planting trees too deep, as this can severely affect their chances of survival. The tree planting hole does not need to be any deeper than about 30-35cm. A tree stake and tie will normally be needed to support the tree for 1-2 years after planting. The stake should be approximately one third the height of the tree (i.e. relatively short).

Maintenance:

Your tree will be more likely to survive with some basic aftercare:

- Water it straight after planting and regularly during the summer months
- Put 2" depth of mulch round the base of the tree to keep weeds at bay (coarse bark chippings are ideal)
- Loosen the tie as necessary to prevent it damaging the tree
- Remove the stake and tie after 1-2 year



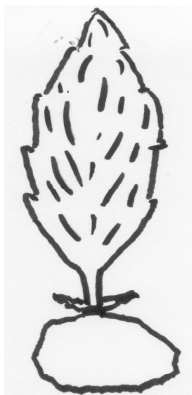
Bare Rooted

Tree - Must be planted between October and March



Containerised

Tree - Can be planted at any time of year and establishment rates are generally better



Root-Balled

Tree - generally used for evergreen trees

Where to get trees:

The following list of local nurseries may be useful:

- Dulford Nurseries, Dulford, Cullompton 01884 266361
- Perrie Hale Forest Nursery, Northcote Hill, Honiton 01404 43344
- St Bridget Nurseries, Old Rydon Lane, Exeter 01392 873672
- Thornhayes Nursery, St Andrews Wood, Dulford, Cullompton 01884 266746

Local tree contractors:

Local tree contractors are able to provide and plant your trees. This is often the best option, because they have experience in buying, planting and maintaining trees and have the necessary vehicles and tools to ensure that the trees are transported and planted properly.

Local contractors able to supply and plant trees:

- Dartmoor Tree Surgeons Ltd 01395 232854
- Rowse Tree Services 01395 567643
- Major Tree Services 01404 822993

For further advice on the planting of trees within the district, contact the Council's Tree Officer on:

Tel: 01395 516551 ext 2069

Fax: 01395 517556

Email: countryside@eastdevon.gov.uk