TREESONLINE

TREE CARE INFORMATION

STANDARD RANGE PLANTS & TREES

What are Cell Grown Plants and Trees?

Cell Grown Plants and Trees (CGPs) that are sold in our Standard Range have been grown in small containers (or cells) , which have been filled with compost, which have various features built into the design of the container focused on preventing root spiraling and promoting fibrous root growth.

Why use Cell Grown Plants and Trees compared to Bare-Root Plants?

The major difference between a CGP and traditional bare-root plants and trees is in their the ability to offer a fully functional root system. Bare-root plants and trees generally suffer damage and subsequent stress when they are lifted from the nursery beds. The root systems on CGPs remain intact, and their fine fibrous feeding roots are sent out with the plant allowing rapid establishment once planted out. There is relatively little check when a CGP is planted out compared to a bare-root plant.

Commonly, the age of CGPs is younger than bare-root stock and the sizes offered are generally smaller. Available plant sizes for broadleaved trees are 20-40cms and 40-60cms whilst shrubs are generally trimmed back to encourage side shoot development and are sold as 15-30cms plants. Conifers are commonly made available as 10-20cms and 20-40cms plants.

What is the Root to Shoot ratio?

Of major importance in a plant or tree is the root to shoot ratio. The larger the plant or tree, the more difficult it is to achieve this balance whilst maintaining a root system that can be planted easily. Whilst CGPs may generally be smaller than bare-root plants, they have been found to establish better, particularly on exposed sites where larger plants or trees can struggle because of a root system which has difficulty in keeping the shoot supplied with moisture and nutrients. For this reason, CGPs are increasing in popularity.

Planting tips

Plant the plants or trees when soil is moist, free from frost and snow.
Cultivated soils will in most cases provide better conditions for root development and plant or tree growth.
Make the most of micro sites suitable for planting and avoid wet hollows and tree stumps.

Animal Damage

Plant and tree shelters offer protection to plants and trees against some of the damage caused by animals. Animals can travel long distances. Other damage can be caused by insects, fungi and bacteria. Tree shelters need to be maintained.

Weeds and Grass Compete for water and nutrients

Weeds compete for water and nutrients in the rooting zone of young plants and trees, slowing their growth.

Tall weeds, particularly bracken, can collapse and smother young plants and trees.

When using chemicals to weed young trees do not forget to protect plants and trees from spray drift. Please seek guidance from a registered chemical stockist on chemical use and health and safety legislation.

Ensure a weed area or spot around the plant or tree, taking note that if a tree shelter has been used that the weeds inside the shelter also need removing.

Care and Maintenance of Stock Prior to Planting
Plants and trees do not need to be heeled in on receipt but as the root plugs only hold a limited quantity of water, they should be protected from drying out, for example by stron sunlight and desiccating winds.

In the growing season plants and trees should not be kept in darkness for long periods. Short periods in the dark, for example, when in transit are not problematical.

In the growing season, plants and trees should be placed upright so that growing shoots do not become deformed.

If planting is delayed, particularly when plants and trees are actively growing, constant checks must be made on the moisture level of root cells. It is recommended to keep root cells moist at all times. When watering it is necessary, that the plants and trees are best stood together and watered from above. Be careful not to overwater as there is a risk of the compost becoming water-logged.

How to plant Cell Grown Plants and Trees
Given their uniform, compact size, the planting of CGPs is much easier than the planting of bare-root stock where long dangling root systems commonly become the victim of a sharp spade.

A traditional small planting spade is adequate for planting cell grown plants and trees in small quantities. There are specialist planting tools available, which we can supply which will speed up planting for larger quantities of cell-grown trees. We can also supply planting bags for carrying trees in. Contact us for more information.

Planting Procedure
Insert the spade vertically, push back and forward slightly and making a small twist in the soil. A small hole in the soil will now have been made for insertion of plant.

Place plant or tree at the correct depth, top of plug half an inch under the level of surrounding ground.

Carefully close the ground with your foot, gently making sure any air pocket is removed from the hole and firmly sealing the plants root, taking care not to scuff the plant.

When planted make sure the top of the plug is at least 2-4cms below the surrounding soil surface and covered by soil. This will prevent drying of the root plug.