

1. The tree pit should be excavated to allow adequate clearance between the root ends (when fully spread) and the side of the pit.

2. The depth of the pit should be a minimum of 700mm, and at least 75mm greater than the depth of the root system.

3. Fork the bottom and sides of the pit to break up the subsoil. Back—fill as shown to the level of the roots.

 $\underline{^4}\cdot$ Mix the dug soil with a slow release fertiliser and an approved soil ameliorant.

5. Prior to planting, prune back all damaged roots to healthy growth; soak the trees in water whilst waiting to be planted; dip all bare—rooted trees in an approved root dip.

6. Drive in the stake so that it is a minimum of 300mm below the bottom of the pit, and 600mm above the gorund level.

7. Plant the tree ensuring that the original depth is maintained and that the roots are spread to their fullest extent.

8. Carefully work the prepared backfill soil between the roots while shaking the tree slightly.

9. Backfill in layers up to the existing ground level, firming by treading, taking care not to damage the roots. Fix the tree to the stake.

10. Spread 75—100mm depth of mulch over a minimum area of 1m diameter around the tree, and maintain until the spring following the first growing season.

11. Protect the tree base from rabbit damage etc. by using a tree guard or as a minimum 600mm high spiral rabbit guard .

12. The stake is to be removed as soon as the tree is securely anchored by its own roots (at the start of the second growing season after planting).

