



Planning For Planting

Careful planning for the planting of your trees is essential to ensure a smooth and economical installation. We recommend you consider this 10 step planning process before you select the size trees you require:



majestic

t r e e s

www.majestictrees.co.uk

1 Approach



Road and parking conditions at the site determine not only what size vehicle can be used to deliver, but also, in turn, may limit the size of stock which is practical to plant. Typically, trees with pot sizes in excess of 200 litres require a regular HGV (truck of 19-44 tons) for delivery as they will need a truck mounted forklift to offload. Smaller stock can be moved on a light HGV (7 ½ ton), though we will need to get as close to the planting position as possible. We have overcome this problem in the past when access is limited, though at additional cost, by parking our larger trucks some distance away, then ferrying the equipment and trees on a smaller truck to the planting site.

Questions to ask yourself;

- Are there any vehicle weight restrictions, road width restrictions, low bridges, low overhanging branches on a narrow road, and is there adequate parking that does not result in us blocking the road?
- Are there parking restrictions, and can you provide any relevant parking permit for our truck?
- Are cars, buses and lorries able to pass us whilst on we are on site?

Depending on the size of truck, we will need between 30' and 90' (9-27 metres) to park! And don't forget, and especially in London, it is illegal to park in front of a dropped curb. If you do not know the answers photographs may help or we may need to do a site visit to verify (fee will apply).

2

Access



It is vital to consider the path of access from the position of where we can park and offload to the planting position. With the correct equipment on board, and careful selection of tree pot size, most obstacles can be overcome at minimal additional expense. For example, for sites with only a standard garden gate access, it is usually most economical to select trees with pot sizes of 200 litres or less. Accurately measuring that gate, and following through to the planting area the way the tree will need to be transported, measuring as you go to ensure there are no pinch points such as down pipes on the side of the house, steps, dog legs, etc is critical. Of course, even if there are, it does not mean there is not a solution, but the more detail and pictures you can provide the better. And if we need to get heavy equipment in to move the trees you want, don't forget that the width of the equipment will then determine whether it is feasible. Never forget to tell us about any steps or slopes.

We often hire in cranes to plant trees, and have been known to crane not only the trees but also the machinery over the house to enable us to move large trees far down the garden. Whilst a crane can be expensive, it can make a job possible and on occasions will reduce the labour cost, allowing you to plant trees of the size you desire and be a cost effective option.

3 Matting



Now that you have figured out where we can park, how we are going to access your property and to where all your trees are being planted, you need to consider the possibility of damage to your drive, patio or lawn, especially if heavy machinery is required. On most jobs, matting out is not necessary, especially if the weather has been dry, but it would be a shame to leave you thrilled with your new trees but with ruts across your lawn. Most customers feel minor tracking on your lawn is acceptable, but you would not be so happy if your patio is the worst for wear when you had no idea it had no base and had been poorly built! Always consider the build quality of your hardscape, and especially the base and its compaction which we is sometimes 'not fit for purpose', before you decide that heavy machinery can travel over it.

We can provide special boarding that can support 60 tons for an additional charge that will enable us to drive the heaviest machinery and trees over your pristine lawn or patio with negligible chance of any damage, though it does take time and therefore labour to place it and remove it afterwards. Each sheet is 4'x 8' and can be linked together if numerous vehicular movements over it are required over a number of days, but often simply laying them tight together is all that is required. Of course if you do have concerns and the trees are under 200 litres, it is often more cost effective to hand dig, but please ask your horticultural advisor for more details.

4 Planting Supplies



It is always wise to use the appropriate tree planting supplies, as they are important to protect your investment and to give your tree the best start possible. We recommend that you typically need;

- A 75ltr bag of professional blend tree and shrub or ericaceous, reduced peat compost per 150 litre pot to be incorporated in with the best soil when backfilling.
- Mycotabs to give your tree all the food it needs for 12 months, combined with 18 species of Mycorrhizae to stimulate new root growth, overcome transplant shock, and increase water and nutrient uptake.
- Perforated pipe for deep watering with or without a Greenleaf root irrigator.
- Appropriate size stakes that are excellent quality, strong and straight with the appropriate rubber strapping; we also sell both the Platipus overhead guying and underground anchor systems for stock over 18/20cm in girth.
- Protective guards if required for rabbit, deer and livestock bark protection.

Most of the supplies, materials and methods of using them are demonstrated in our Planning for Planting demonstration garden. Here you can see all these various methods, as shown in the Planting Solutions A through H. If you decide to plant the tree yourself, we can supply all the necessary planting supplies for any of these solutions to ensure you get the best quality supplies without compromise for a very reasonable cost.

5

Anchorage



In order for a newly planted tree to ‘establish’ (become self-sufficient in its new environment), it is vital that it is anchored correctly. Stakes are great for trees up to 18/20 girth, but they can be like matchsticks with larger trees, and will do little to keep it straight and true. A tree which is not sufficiently anchored will rock in the wind, causing the rootball to rock underground which continually breaks off the fragile new roots the tree is producing as it attempts to root out into the surrounding soil. Some experts think this can have a positive effect, but in general it will only drain the trees resources and could well result in a crooked tree that will be totally healthy but maybe not as aesthetically pleasing on the eye, so don’t cut corners on your investment as it can be expensive to return to site later.

There are many anchorage options, depending on the size of tree, whether it is evergreen, the site conditions and its exposure, with stakes being the cheapest option through to systems that the professionals use such as the Platipus underground and overhead guying systems demonstrated in our Planning for Planting garden. Here you can see all these anchorage methods, as shown in the Planting Solutions A through H. With the Platipus system, one must be careful not to hit underground electric or gas services and our team can come equipped with underground service scanners. No liability is accepted if you have no idea where your services are, so it is always wise to check with your utility company if you don’t know where your services are.

However, after your tree is planted, high winds can cause it to lean or even get loose until the tree roots in. This must be corrected by you, either by straightening the tree and healing it in, knocking in the stakes again and restrapping the tree, or when using a system such as Platipus, tightening up the cables. We can send our team to provide this service, though there is often an additional fee, as it is often has little to do with the quality of the original fitting, but simply the high winds that often topple fully grown trees.

6 Muck-Away



The large rootballs of mature trees can displace a significant amount of soil. The best of the removed soil is mixed with our professional blend tree and shrub or ericaceous compost and used to backfill around the rootball during planting. The remaining spoil needs to be disposed of either on site, which can add significant labour if not adjacent to the hole, or off-site. Always consider the quality of the left over soil that needs to be disposed of, as it is often nothing you would want to plant your petunias or vegetables in.

When Majestic Trees undertakes to take the muck away, it will usually be tipped directly into dumpy bags if accessible by one of our Manitou telehandlers and removed as the holes are dug. This significantly reduces labour costs, as each dumpy bag will take up to 15 wheelbarrows worth, though if it must be done manually, this additional time will be reflected in the significantly higher labour fee. Although we must pay to dispose of the muck-away including 'landfill taxes', we only charge for this at a very reasonable cost, though if significant, it may be cheaper for us to leave it in a pile for you to arrange a local grab lorry or local farmer to move it after the project is complete. We would not advise you use a builders skip as you can rarely put more than 6 dumpy bags in a skip due to weight restrictions, which makes for very expensive muck-away.

7 Watering



It usually takes about two growing seasons for a tree to root out fully into its surrounding soil. Once it has done so it is considered 'established' and can normally thrive without any supplementary watering, except in extreme drought. During those first two seasons, however, it is vital that a tree is supported with supplementary watering. Trees need varying amounts of water, just like humans, and every species is different and will vary dramatically based on the soils drainage, the temperature, the size of the rootball in relation to the size of the tree and the exposure to wind and thereby transpiration. As some tree types require little whilst other require a great deal of watering, it is imperative that you consider the trees water requirements and how you are going to deliver the required water when needed.

It is therefore critical to have watering arrangements in place prior to planting, and with us having busy lives and with the potential for drought orders we highly recommend that you consider an automatic drip irrigation system for peace of mind. For a relatively inexpensive cost, we can install a high quality, surface mounted system tailored to each trees water requirements. In our Planning for Planting demonstration garden, you can this automated watering system as well as more conventional methods, as shown in the Planting Solutions A through H. Our horticultural advisors can provide costings for any of these solutions, both supply only or fully installed.

8

Warranty



Unlike the vast majority of other nurseries in the UK we are willing to provide a warranty on our trees. There are 3 options;

- Supply Warranty, which is a more limited warranty that the stock was true to type, in good health, structurally sound with a good root system;
- Establishment Warranty, which is very popular as it comes as part of our tree planting package with the fee for this incorporated into the 'Planting including Warranty' fee structure. With this service we provide complete planting of your trees with a 1 year warranty, subject to terms and conditions, which include obvious conditions such as you providing watering for the trees, pest and disease control, etc. Many professional landscapers and garden designers request this service as not only is our tree stock often large and requires significant expertise and specialist equipment to handle, but it is often a nightmare to replace the tree later.
- Comprehensive 'AfterCare' Warranty includes a service visit every 4-6 weeks by a qualified and trained horticulturist during the growing season and a 100% guarantee of establishment success during the first year after planting, subject to a few terms and conditions. Your warranty is automatically extended for as long as you continue with the full 'AfterCare' service, and then the standard 1 year establishment warranty continues for one additional year after you cease our 'AfterCare' service. (See the point 9, AfterCare, for more details).

Like any living thing, trees need appropriate ongoing care to thrive, so it is important to consider how your trees will be cared for once planted. The most crucial aftercare requirements to consider are adequate and timely watering, pest and disease control, etc and please remember provision of appropriate aftercare is necessary to meet the terms of our establishment warranty. A more in depth explanation on any of these warranties is available in the office, in our brochures or on line. Ask a horticultural advisor for more information that will protect your investment in your trees.

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Aftercare



For total peace of mind, we do offer an optional 'AfterCare' programme of professional care that is designed to alleviate any concerns you may have about successfully establishing the investment you have made in your new trees. This comprehensive service offers inspection visits every 4-6 weeks by a qualified and trained horticulturist during the growing season and a 100% guarantee of establishment success during the first year after planting. The 'AfterCare' warranty is only offered for trees that we supply and plant, and provides for the replacement of any tree that fails subject to the terms and conditions listed on the 'AfterCare' Agreement. This service will include;

- Spraying for pest and disease control
- Analysis of the trees health
- Essential pruning
- Fertilisation
- Adjustment of stakes, Platipus anchors and strapping and any necessary replacement of these materials
- Soil testing if deemed necessary
- Mycorrhiza applications
- Adjustment and reasonable maintenance of any automatic irrigation system installed by us for the watering of the trees.
- At the end of each visit you will be given a report on what we have done and will give you watering guidelines to follow over the next 4-6 weeks until our next visit.

It does remain your responsibility to ensure adequate watering arrangements are in place at time of planting, and in between our subsequent 'AfterCare' visits. Your warranty is automatically extended for as long as you continue with the full 'AfterCare' service, and then the standard 1 year establishment warranty continues for one additional year after you cease our 'AfterCare' service. Please ask a horticultural adviser for more details.

10 Site Visits



Still confused, or unsure if the job can or how it could be done? Would value knowledgeable expertise that can tell you what is possible? Need assistance in your tree selection to make sure you are thrilled with the result?

We can help with our seasoned horticultural advice team to offer advice in the office or together on the nursery. However, if after a conversation, or you feel that this is what you need, we can come to site to evaluate and give you the assurance that all will be well. An experienced and well educated horticulturist, who is also a qualified garden designer, will come to your project for a £50 per hour charge plus 55p per mile, a nominal sum considering the investment you may be considering that will last a lifetime. Occasionally we are able to reduce the mileage charge by combining other visits enroute.



Majestic Trees would like to thank the following suppliers for their support in making this Planning for Planting, demonstration garden possible. They include;



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