

Tips on Planting

When planting trees and shrubs in your garden, there are a few points worth remembering to ensure the successful growth of your new plant.



Always dig a hole twice the size of the pot the plant is in. This ensures that the soil you are planting into is loosened up for the newly developing roots of your plant.

Image taken from: <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homelandscape/tree/planting.html>

- You can dig in organic matter to make sandy soils richer and more water retentive, and to make clay soil more open, however avoid digging organic matter deeper than 200mm. Below this depth, the organic matter has trouble breaking down, and can actually slow plant growth.
- Place the plant in the hole, level with the existing soil surface. Do not have the trunk covered with soil as this may lead to rot, and do not leave roots exposed as this may lead to drying out of the root ball.

It is a good idea to build up a watering bowl around the plant using left over soil. This directs water into the root zone when the plants are being watered and saves wastage.



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- Mulching around the plant is an effective method of reducing water evaporation and helps to keep the root zone cool in summer, however it is important to make sure mulch does not build up against the tree trunk as this can lead to collar rot and insect attack.
- Water in well and continue to water at least once a week (more often in summer) until the plant is established. REMEMBER: These are just guidelines. Use your index finger to check the soil moisture under the mulch.

Please note: When planting a tree, make sure you look for -

- 1. Overhead services**
- 2. Street lights**
- 3. Traffic hazards**
- 4. Pedestrian safety**
- 5. Size of tree when mature**
- 6. Underground services**
- 7. Proximity to footpaths, fences and buildings**
- 8. Existing soil conditions**
- 9. Existing street trees and vegetation**

