

Planting Guide for Root Ball Plants

At [Hedgenursery.co.uk](https://www.hedgenursery.co.uk) we are the exclusive provider of RHS hedging plants.

Once you receive your root-balled plants, it is important that the following steps are taken to ensure the best chance of plant establishment and to minimise any future problems.

1. **It is important not to remove the hessian sack or wire root containment** at any stage of planting, as this will disturb the root system and may cause the plant to struggle.
2. **The root ball can survive** without being planted in the ground for several weeks if appropriately cared for, however it is our strong recommendation that root balled plants are in the ground within 2-3 days of delivery. If you are unable to plant in this time then give the root ball a good soaking of water on a daily basis. Plants over 2 metres in height should be watered twice a day. Try and keep the root balls in a sheltered spot away from exposure to cold winds or frost.
3. **When preparing the hole for the root ball**, ensure that the hole is at least double the width of the root ball. The depth of the hole should only be the same depth as the root ball. Planting the root ball too deeply may cause the stem of the plant to rot and can subsequently lead to plant failure. It is important that you plant your root ball at the same depth that the root ball was growing in the nursery. There should be a visible soil mark on the stem to indicate this, if it is not visible, ensure that the highest roots of the plants are just covered by soil.
4. **Place the root ball in the planting hole** and refill carefully with soil. Press down the soil to eliminate any air pockets. Once planted water the root ball well.

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INFORMATION**

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Aftercare

If you receive delivery of your root balled plants during the winter months when the soil is cooler, the root ball will only need to be watered well twice a week. If you are planting in the spring (late February/March), then it is important that the root balls are watered every day (for up to a month - twice a day for larger plants), to help the plant establish a root system whilst the ground is warming up.

Dry, windy conditions are especially likely to lead to water shortages so correct watering is essential. The best time to water your root ball is early in the morning or in the evening when the temperature is cooler.

It is important to keep a 1.2m (4ft) circle around the root ball clear of any weeds and vegetation, especially for the first year as these compete for vital nutrients and moisture and can harbour diseases. To suppress the weeds we recommend mulching around the plants with garden compost, bark chippings or mulch matting, this will also help conserve moisture. Leave a gap of approximately 10cm (4 inches) around the stem of the plant to ensure good airflow around the plants stems.

Pruning

Once the plant/hedge has reached the height you desire then to keep it restricted and maintained you will need to prune. Pruning is often recommended in late spring through to late summer, however the best time to prune varies depending on the variety of plant. If the leading stem or branches at the top of the plant are pruned then this will encourage new growth lower down the plant and as a result will increase the density of the plant/hedge.

Important Notice

If there are any damages sustained whilst the plants have been in transit, then please contact us immediately with photographs of the plants to enable us to assess damage and arrange for replacements if necessary.

We provide the highest quality root balled plants but if you have any queries then please contact us before at your earliest convenience and we will be happy to assist and advise you.

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For all queries, please call or email:
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