



Planting rootballed trees

- 1) Ensure the area you intend to plant your tree in is not waterlogged. **This is the main cause of tree deaths.**
- 2) Dig the pit to the correct depth. The hole should be 5cm deeper than the rootball and approx 50 cms wider. This allows lateral root growth into well broken ventilated soil.
- 3) When planting do not remove the wire or Hessian from the rootball. Removing the Hessian destroys many of the young fibrous feeding roots and thus reduces the chance of survival. Hessian should, however, be removed from the trunk.
- 4) Carefully lower the tree into the pit. You are now ready to anchor the tree, either with specialist underground guying or with at least 3 posts and ties. After you have anchored the tree you should insert some perforated irrigation coil. Loop the coil around the equator of the rootball and bring one end up to the surface. Back fill the hole firming regularly to ensure no air pockets. As an alternative to the irrigation tube it is possible to form a watering bowl using the soil at the surface. This needs to be double the width of the rootball and between 100mm and 250 mm deep. Once the tree is planted it should be watered in immediately
- 5) Watering is likely to be very important and will demand particular care and attention. Start to water in April and continue through to September on average once every 10 to 14 days. During a dry spell the tree will need water once a week. The aim is to ensure that the tree has moisture constantly available, both in the rootball and in the surrounding soil, but it is also important that the root system does not become waterlogged. For the first three years watch carefully for signs of drought such as the foliage starting to wilt or change colour or the leaves starting to roll up or turn away from the sun.