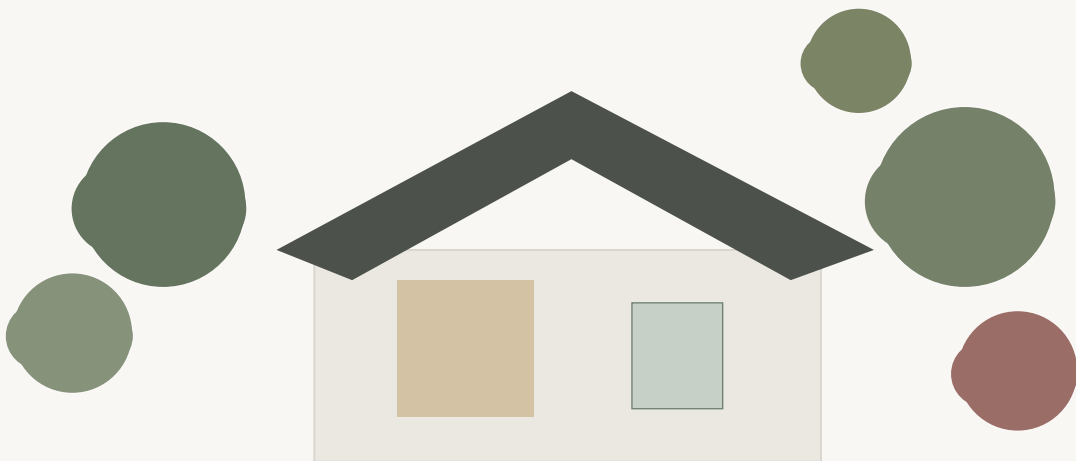




Planting & Aftercare Guide

Simple, practical guidance to help your new tree establish strongly and thrive for years to come.



THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING PAPERVALE TREES

We hope your new tree brings you many years of beauty and enjoyment. Follow these steps to give it the best possible start.

Before planting

Your tree has been sealed in packaging for the past couple of days. When it arrives, place it in a light and airy spot, out of direct sunlight, and set the pot on a saucer of water for a day or two.



WHY THIS MATTERS

This helps the tree rehydrate and acclimatise to its new surroundings before planting.

Planting your tree

1

Dig the right hole

Make a square hole with straight sides, about twice the width of the pot. A square hole helps roots grow outward instead of spiralling.

2

Loosen the base

Break up the soil at the bottom of the hole to encourage root penetration.

3

Position the tree

Keep the top of the root ball level with, or slightly above, the surrounding ground.

4

Backfill and firm

Refill the hole with topsoil, gently firming it to remove air pockets and give the tree stability.

5

Mulch and control weeds

Keep a 1 m circle around the base free from grass and weeds. Apply a 5 cm layer of mulch each spring, keeping it clear of the stem.

Supporting your tree

Your tree will benefit from support while it establishes its root system, especially in an exposed or windy site.



HOW LONG?

Keep the support system in place for the first one to two years. Remove the stake and ties once the tree is strong enough to stand on its own.

Staking

Keep the original bamboo cane or replace it with a larger stake for extra support during the first year. Position the stake on the windward side and drive it firmly into the ground outside the root ball. For most small trees, one stake reaching two-thirds of the tree's height is ideal.

Tree ties

Use a flexible tree tie. It should be firm enough to keep the tree upright but loose enough to allow gentle movement, which helps develop a strong trunk. Check it regularly, especially after strong winds, and loosen or adjust it as the tree grows.

Tree guards, if required

Where rabbits, deer or strimmers may cause damage, fit a tree guard or spiral protector around the lower stem. Ensure guards are well ventilated and do not trap moisture, as dampness can encourage disease.



QUICK CHECK

The tie should not rub, pinch or constrict the stem. Recheck it through the growing season and after severe weather.

Watering

Consistent moisture is one of the most important factors during establishment. Deep watering encourages roots to grow down into the soil.



Right after planting

Water thoroughly to settle soil around the roots, remove air pockets and ensure good root-to-soil contact.



During the first two years

Give a deep soak once or twice a week during dry spells or warm, windy weather, rather than frequent light sprinklings.



Check before watering

Feel the soil a few inches below the surface. It should be slightly damp, not waterlogged.



Maintain mulch

A 5 cm layer retains moisture, suppresses weeds and helps moderate soil temperature. Keep it away from the stem.



A USEFUL GUIDE

Aim for around 10-20 litres per watering, depending on tree size and soil. Sandy soils may need water more often; heavier clay soils retain moisture for longer.

Avoid overwatering

Overwatering can be just as harmful as underwatering, particularly in poorly drained ground. Always check the soil first rather than watering automatically.

Feeding

1

First year

Avoid strong fertilisers immediately after planting. Allow the tree to settle and focus on root establishment.

2

From the second spring

Apply a slow- or controlled-release fertiliser in early spring. A balanced fertiliser with equal parts nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, such as 10-10-10, suits most trees.

3

Organic options

Well-rotted compost or manure, lightly worked into the soil around the base, provides a gentle and steady nutrient boost.

4

Annual routine

Each spring, renew the mulch layer and top up fertiliser to maintain soil health and encourage robust root and canopy development.

Ongoing care

A little attention in the early months goes a long way. Regular watering, appropriate feeding and a watchful eye will help your tree establish quickly and reward you with healthy growth for decades to come.



YOUR SEASONAL CHECK

Check soil moisture, refresh mulch, inspect ties and guards, and look over the stem and canopy for signs of damage or stress.

We would love to see how your tree settles in.

Send us a photo or tag us on social media: @papervaletrees

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