

GREAT BIG TREE GIVE AWAY! Planting and Care instructions

Your cell grown native tree or shrub species is Cherry Plum (*Prunus Cerasifera*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Wayfaring Tree (*Viburnum lantana*) or Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*).

They can be grown as trees, shrubs or as part of a hedge. Details on the species are available on the PRTC website www.princesrisboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk under the Our Community/Events/Great Big Tree Give Away links. You may also like to look the species up on the internet to find out more about its characteristics.

The sooner you plant your tree in the ground the more resilient it will be in the long term

Choose a suitable location in your garden to plant the tree where it will have room to grow in the most favourable conditions.

Water the tree well just before you plant it.

In your chosen spot **clear a circle of ground** around half a metre across to stop grass, weeds and other plants from competing with the tree for light and moisture.

Dig a planting hole around twice the size of the plant root plug and save the soil.

Remove the tree from the bag and **plant it in the hole infilling with the soil** firmly around the roots so that the soil is at that same height on the tree stem in the ground as it was in the soil cell/plug. Water the tree again after planting.

Cover the cleared area around the tree with mulch to give your tree the best chance. This could be grass cuttings, bark or wood chip and/or a mulch mat to retain moisture and stop the encroachment of grass or weeds for up to 3 years. It will also reduce the likelihood of damage by activities such as strimming or lawn mowing! Do not allow woodchip to touch the tree stem as it can cause rot.

Watering: Your plant is pretty tough and will most likely need little or no watering. If you do have to water it such as during hot dry spells, make sure you give it a large watering can full when you do - 10L - no more than once a week. Watering little and often leads to poor root system development.

Note: If you are not able to plant your tree in the ground straightaway then it should be OK in the bag for up to a week if left in a cool, dry, frost-free place. Alternatively, it can be removed from the bag and 'heeled' in a temporary hole in the ground for a while longer, making sure the soil is well firmed down around the roots. If you choose to plant the tree in a pot, please note it will need more watering than it will in the ground. It can be repotted each or every other Spring into bigger pots if needed for up to a few years (5 years max)

Thank you for taking part in 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II and her Green Canopy project. Enjoy nurturing your plant - Together we can help make Risborough greener and healthier!