

MAINTENANCE OF NEW TREES

(Refer to British Standard **BS 8545: 2015** Tree from nursery to independence in the landscape)

First year after planting

Spring:

- Stakes and ties should be checked to ensure that the root system remains stable and firm in the ground, and that ties are still effective and not causing any damage to the tree. Any stakes and ties that are found to be not fit for purpose should be adjusted, replaced or removed.
- Replenish the mulch.
- Carry out any formative pruning. Remove all dead, dying or diseased wood and any branches spoiling the overall effect of the tree.

Summer:

- Irrigate the tree regularly, paying attention to weather conditions, soil moisture content and tree species. Quantities are variable but newly planted trees with an 800mm diameter rootball may need 20L water twice weekly. Do not merely sprinkle the surface with water as this will bring roots to the surface. Soak thoroughly and ideally apply through a watering tube as well.
- Check for pests and diseases
- Keep the base of the tree clear of weeds, they compete for water and nutrients and may harbour P&D.

Autumn and Winter:

- Check the stake and ties. Adjust if necessary as the tree grows.
- Firm around the base of the tree (it may be lifted by frost).

Second and third year:

- If the soil is not fertile apply a top dressing of balanced fertiliser such as Growmore or Fish, Blood or Bone at 35g/m².
- Mulch in early spring. Take care to avoid a build-up of mulch around the root flare and the base of the trunk.
- Continue to irrigate during the growing season, especially in dry periods.
- Keep the base of the tree free from weeds.
- Continue to check stake and tree ties - adjust if necessary.
- Continue to monitor formative pruning, removing crossing or wayward branches. (Refer to **BS 3998**).

- Monitor the young tree's health and development, paying attention to foliar appearance (i.e. lack of leaf chlorosis and/or necrosis), leaf size and leaf canopy density, extension growth and incremental girth development.

Third year

- All stakes and ties should be removed as soon as the developing root system is strong enough to support the tree. NOTE Two full growing seasons are usually long enough for this to occur.
- Mulching area may need to be enlarged as the tree canopy increases.
- Inspect soil for capping or compaction. Remedial action should be taken when necessary.