

# PLANTING A FRUIT TREE

**Did you know?!**  
A "maiden" is a 1 year old fruit tree and a "feathered maiden" is a 2 year old fruit tree with side shoots

Plant trees in winter when they are "dormant"



- Assess the suitability of the site, get permission, test soil, check tools and make a risk assessment
- Choose a suitable tree variety and rootstock

At the start of the workshop do a tool safety talk and everyone must put on their gloves.



Remove a circle of grass to one spades depth and two spade's width. Place the soil in the order it came out of the ground on a plastic sheet or tarpaulin, removing any stones.



Test that the hole is deep enough by gently placing your tree's root ball inside. The soil at the base of the hole should be nice and loose. Take the tree out again and re-wrap the roots so they don't dry out.



Place a post each side of the hole and use a post rammer to get them into the ground. An adult should do this.



Unwrap tree and place in hole. One person can hold the tree straight whilst the others put the soil back (in the order it came out).

Firm down the soil around the stem with your feet. Make sure all roots are covered but don't be tempted to plant too deep.



Loop the tree ties around the post and stem of the tree and nail into the posts to secure. Lower down the tree is better, firm but not over-tight.



One wheelbarrow full of wood chip per tree tipped and spread. Wood chip should be pulled back from the tree's main stem to prevent rotting.



Give the tree a good water and water regularly throughout the growing season.



*A "maiden" fruit tree leafing out 4 months after planting*

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