

How to plant a fruit tree for wildlife

people's
trust for
endangered
species

Fruit trees provide food for many types of insects and wildlife, while also providing cover and shelter. Once established, they provide an abundance of fruit year after year and require minimal care. Fruit trees are like most perennials, in that planting in the dormant season (winter) is preferable because their roots can settle in before they need to get to work absorbing moisture. Planting in the summer is OK if



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the rootball is not disturbed too much and you constantly water if the weather is dry.

How to plant a fruit tree:

1. Get your tree from a local fruit tree nursery and a stake to keep it upright. It's better to plant bare-rooted trees in the winter, but containerised trees can be planted all year if you can keep them well watered.
2. Prepare your tree by soaking the roots beforehand for around 30-60 minutes.
3. Plant fruit trees in a sunny and sheltered spot so that fruit can ripen well.
5. Dig a hole a third wider than the roots and line the bottom of the hole with the top part of the removed soil. Put your stake in now.

6. Trim off long roots rather than curl them around. Place your tree into the hole when the soil is moist but avoid frosty or very cold days.
7. Backfill the hole making sure there are no air pockets and attach it to the stake with a flexible tie.

