



# SOUTHERN WOODS

## PLANT NURSERY



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## Info 12: Tips for Establishing Plantings on Rural and Lifestyle Properties

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- Reasons for plantings**
- Aesthetic: maybe to screen an unsightly view, create privacy or to create an interesting environment.
  - Physical: to give shelter to owners and stock.

### Selection of Plants

- Use the Southern Woods Catalogue Shelter Belt Design principles.
- Planting suggestions:
  - a: Native
  - b: Mixed Native and Exotic
  - c: Streamside/Drains

### Stock Type – Size of Plants

- The smaller plants (02-grade) are often easier to establish on open, exposed sites as they catch less wind, require less water and are easier to use plant protection on.

➔ TIP: There is a stock type key at the bottom of every second page in the catalogue.

### Placing an Order

- We welcome forward orders, especially for larger plantings. Not only does this give you the customer security but it also helps with knowing what to produce.

### Site Preparation

- Where possible ripping with a winged soil ripper will give better conditions for plant establishment, rotary hoeing is another tool.
- For the ripper you will need a 55HP Tractor minimum size or you can arrange for a contractor to do this for you.
- You can also drag irrigation lines in underground by using a 'shoe' that bolts onto the back of the ripper.

- Southern Woods have a Ripper for hire.

→ TIP: Run the tractor wheel along the rip line after ripping to lightly compact any air pockets.

## Weed Control

- Spray proposed planting spots with Glyphosate Herbicide (Round Up) at least 2 weeks before planting.
- You may find it easier to mark out your planting areas with a fluoro marker.

→ TIP: Don't spray vegetation that is under stress from drought or covered in dust. Irrigate the area or wait for rain to encourage fresh new weed growth, this will give a far better kill. You may even have to irrigate a few days after spraying if no rain falls.

## Fencing

- This will give protection from stock.
- In areas with high populations of rabbits and hares you may even consider using rabbit netting.

## Irrigation

- There are two types;
  - Drippers (generally 4L/hour)
  - Overhead from a sprinkler
- Frequency of watering will vary depending on the season, generally a good soak twice a week or mid-summer 3 times a week. If using drippers water for 30 minutes and if using overhead sprinklers water for 45 minutes.
- Normally in Canterbury you will need to irrigate from mid-September through to late March. Toward Autumn you will need to reduce the amount of time and the frequency of watering so as not to promote soft growth.

## Planting Day (The fun days!)

### 1. Planting Preparation for:

- **Bagged Plants:** Check the roots on all plants are moist. Never plant a plant with dry roots as it is very hard to re-wet once they are planted. Really dry plants can be soaked in a bucket for 4-5minutes or until the air bubbles stop rising to the top.
- **Bare Root Trees (or Open Ground):** These need to be planted as soon as possible after collection from the nursery. If you are held up planting 'heel them in' – unpack, soak if necessary and dig into say a vegetable garden until ready to plant.
- **Bare Root (Plug grade):** Tube stock is best held the same as Bare Root Trees above.

→ TIP: DON'T disturb the root ball – virtually all the plants we supply don't like their roots to be broken up.

2. **Planting:** Some plants that are taller in proportion to their root ball size can be planted deeper e.g. 02-grade Ribbonwood can be planted 10cm deeper, burying part

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of the stem. Alders, Poplars and Willows can be planted 30cm deeper. This keeps the plant more stable in the ground.

▪ **Planting methods for different sites**

- General/Sloping Sites: Planting in a hollow/saucer shaped depression will allow the moisture to soak into the plants root ball. This is especially important on slopes to create a level planting pocket – don't leave the ground around sloping away from the planting hole.
- Moist Wet Sites: Opposite of above, a good solution is to make a mound of 5-6 shovels full of soil and plant on top of this
- Clay Sites: Incorporate Gypsum to help break up the clay and provide better aeration.
- Stony/Gravel Sites: Add compost or a mix of compost and topsoil to the planting hole to give better water holding capacity and will also hold more fertiliser.

▪ **Things to-do when planting**

- Fertiliser: Add Grotabs beside the rootball of plants, these are a slow release plant food that lasts six months. 1 tablet for 02 – 05 grade plants and for taller plants, 1 tablet per metre height.
- Stake: Open Ground/Bare Rooted trees need to be staked and tied. You will need 2 stakes per tree, the webbing needs to be attached to each stake and around the trunk of the tree to keep the root ball firm in the ground.
- Trimming: Some bushy plants will benefit from giving a light trim to encourage branching. Deciduous trees that are bare root also benefit – remove any broken growth, see our Information Sheet for notes of Pruning Flowering Cherries on our website.

3. **Plant Protection**: See the Planting Accessories in the Stwds Catalogue

- **Combi Guards**: Wool much mat, stakes and sleeve – Mat suppresses weeds and hold in moisture, sleeve helps give shelter and protection from rabbits and hares .

→TIP: Spray a strip around the outside of the sleeve then let the grass etc. grow beyond this zone, rabbits and hares are not so inclined to browse.

- **Sleeves**: Sizes 560 x 180mm and 450 x 350mm, similar to the Combi-sleeve but taller and wider.

→TIP: Roll a collar top and bottom on the sleeve then thread a bamboo cane through three holes in the sleeve to help prevent the sleeve blowing away in the wind.

4. **Liquid Shotgun**: Makes up to a Liquid Repellent Spray to help deter rabbits and hares - gives approximately 6 weeks protection. Great for pines etc where you need some initial protection but not the cost of the sleeves or pests are not such a problem.

5. **Frost Protection:** (See Page 99 in the 2012 Catalogue) Applying Seaweed Spray over the foliage will act as a growth retardant to help prevent soft growth subject to winter frost damage. Apply as per instructions in the Stwds catalogue from mid-April.
6. **Maintenance:** Weed control and light trimming to encourage branching means you will be rewarded with better growth and a better overall result.
7. **Returning Pots:** We give a credit on a selected range of pots that we recycle – only those displayed on our collection bin though.