

PLANTING GUIDELINES

Keep the troughs or bags on the plants until you are ready to plant, this is quite important in winter to protect the roots from frost. If you are not planting straight away, unload the hedging and space the hedging units apart so that light can get to the leaves. Keep the roots damp, keep the hedging watered when it needs it.

Remove the troughs or bags just before planting.

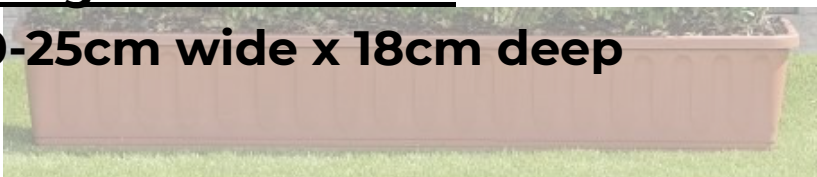
PLANTING YOUR READYHEDGE TROUGH OR BAG HEDGING –



Dig the trench to the sizes indicated below and no deeper than the roots.

Troughs Trench Size

20-25cm wide x 18cm deep



Readybags Trench Size

45cm wide x 30cm deep

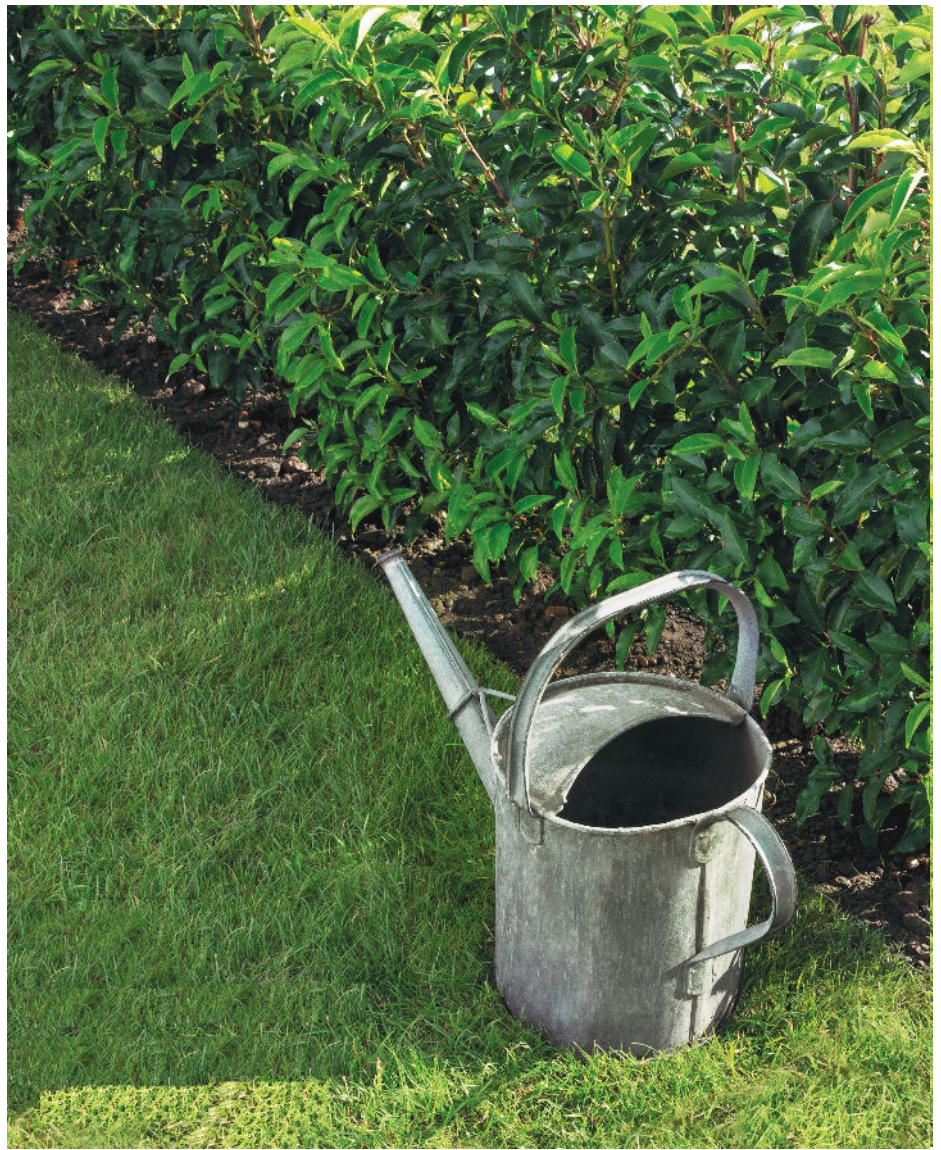


Remove the hedging from the trough or bag.

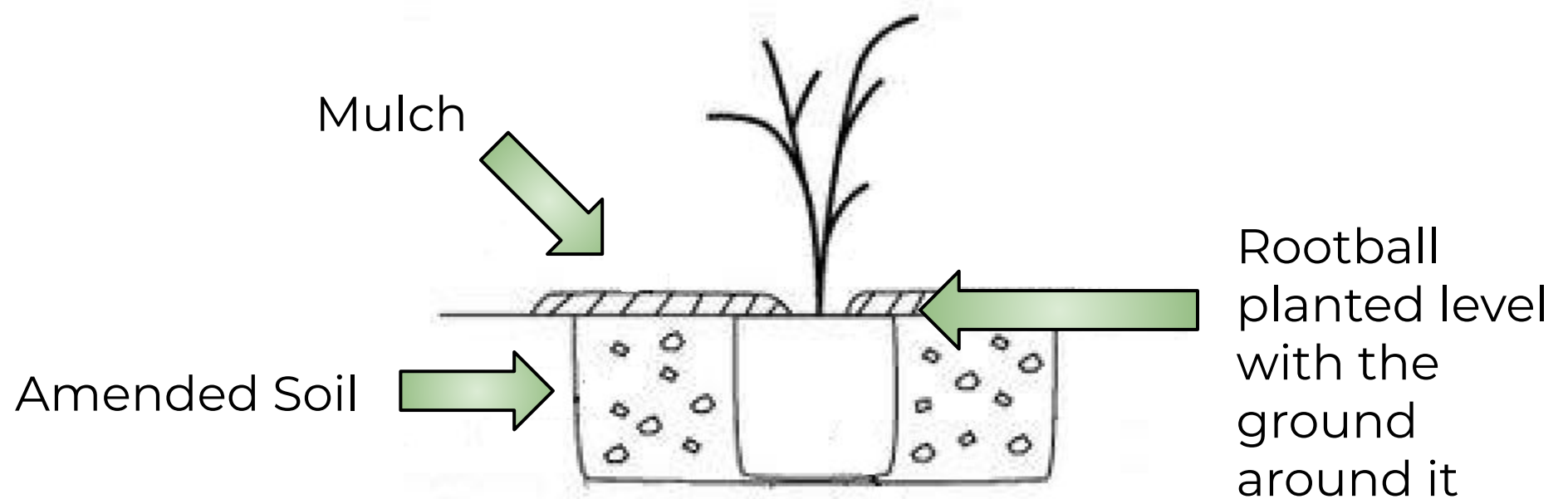
Cut the cable tie on the troughs, cut down the four corners of the hedgebags. The hedging will come out as one full metre of hedging. Place each unit centrally in the trench. Make sure that the soil around the plants is level with the ground surrounding the trench. You do not want the hedging planted deeper or shallower than this.



Backfill soil around the roots, mix in Osmocote PrePlant fertiliser at the recommended rate for the size of plant (see on packet). When backfilling it is beneficial to add well rotted compost or a tree planting compost, such as John Innes No.3, at a rate of one third compost two thirds normal soil. If you have a heavy clay soil using a good quality top soil is advised.



Firm in around the plants, water well and regularly until the plants are established. During hot dry summer spells this does mean watering every day, an irrigation system can help immensely with this task. A mulch around the base of the plants can help with water retention and weed control. Do not mulch right up to the plants as this could rot the bark of the plants.



WATERING

The most common reason for the failure of trees and shrubs is lack of water, or over watering.



It is critical that both evergreens and deciduous plants get adequate water in the period March to May as this is when they are breaking dormancy and growing at their fastest.

It is very easy to underestimate how much water plants actually use. A short sharp shower of rain in summer does not sink in and is not enough to replace a proper watering which gets down to the roots.

The Squeeze Test

Dig down 20cm, take a handful of soil and squeeze

If the soil.....

then.....

Does not bind at all and falls readily through your fingers

Water urgently  

Does bind but then crumbles when touched

Apply water and check again soon 

Binds and holds

No need to water

Binds and free water squeezes out

Too wet....Allow to dry out.
Too much water can be as harmful as too little, many plants will not tolerate sitting in water-saturated ground

For the first year to 18 months the hedging will require regular watering. As soon as the weather warms up in spring, through to autumn, when you have warm and dry weather the hedging will need to be watered. In the very warm summer months this can be as regular as everyday. In winter if it is dry some evergreens may still benefit from the occasional watering. The key is to keep the plant moist but not overly wet. **Do not let it dry out and do not over water.** Think of it as pot plant which will need care. **We recommend that leaky pipe is used to evenly get water across the whole hedge. Manual watering takes a long time, it often leads to uneven watering & not enough water being applied.**

On the nursery we apply water on average as below

Our hedging is containerised so does need more water than when planted in the ground.

**Troughs (23L pot)
3 - 4 litres per day**

**Bag (76L fabric bag)
10 - 12 litres per day**

However, this does vary on the time of year, the type of plant and the weather conditions.

FEEDING & AFTERCARE

FEEDING

We have already mentioned in the planting guide that giving the hedging a feed with a preplant fertiliser when planting. Osmocote PrePlant is what we would recommend. Trees, hedges and shrubs will benefit from having a top dressing of a high Nitrogen fertiliser e.g. 'Growmore' applied in spring which will give a 4 week boost. Application rate: 55 grams per square metre as top dressing which is the equivalent of a small handful. Rake this into the top few inches of soil so it gets to where the plants can benefit the most. It is important not to overfeed as this will result in the plants putting on too much top growth at the expense of roots. In autumn, an application of a fertiliser with a higher potash rate is advisable as it will help the rooting system. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations or ask at a local Garden Centre.

WEED CONTROL

All freshly planted hedges need space to themselves so that they can obtain moisture, nutrients and light. To help this keep weeds and grass away from them for the first 2 to 3 years to help establish the hedge.

LEAF LOSS / DISCOLORATION

In the first year after planting, plants often come into leaf or flower much later than established plants, or lose their leaves much earlier than established plants. Evergreen plants (or semi-evergreens) often defoliate or the leaves turn yellow when transplanted. Evergreens also have a tendency to defoliate when they first experience warm, dry weather. If your plants experience any of these just increase the frequency of watering (but don't make them waterlogged) and new leaves will appear.

TRIMMING

When planting Readyhedge troughs, it looks even better to lightly trim along the top after planting. When trimming Buxus, it is good practice to clean up and burn all trimmings, reducing the chances of Box Blight.

After planting the hedging, pruning of side shoots and broken branches is beneficial and will help the hedge to establish. Avoid pruning in very hot or very cold periods of weather.

RE-USE & RECYCLE

Our troughs and Readybags can be reused to grow other plants in. The troughs are ideal for small herbs and salad plants. We have successfully grown potatoes and carrots in the larger Readybags.

The terracotta troughs are widely recycled through kerbside collections or community recycling centres. The black troughs and hedgebags are suitable for recycling but you need to check with your specific councils if they are accepting black plastics.