



Handling your Ex-Ground Tree

When you receive your tree:

It is important that it is handled in an appropriate manner so that there is no damage done to the trunk or limbs and that no unnecessary strain is placed on the root ball.

Please communicate this information to the person who will be receiving the tree/s when delivery occurs.

We suggest the following items be on hand in order to adequately plant or move your tree/s.

- A crane, excavator or bobcat with lifting capacity to suit the tree/s you are receiving with an attachment for a lifting chain.
- One 3 legged chain with chain shorteners and hooks approximately 2 metres long.



3 Legged Chain



Lifting hook



Chain clip

- One 2 metre sausage sling, 2 tonne capacity





Hook each of the hooks to individual lifting lugs on the tree cage



Shorten the middle chain to suit. The shorter this chain, the more tilt on the tree. A shorter middle chain will help when unloading trees from a tautliner.

It is a good idea to use a saver sling in case the tree wants to pivot in the cage, this will prevent root ball damage. However, saver slings should not be used to take the full weight of the tree as this can easily cause damage such as ring barking the tree. The saver sling only takes the weight of the tree to stop it falling forward.



Saver sling around trunk



Ready to lift with 3 chains and saver sling

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Lifting the tree: Note the saver sling attached with no weight being taken by the sling. This method will get the tree to the hole without any damage being caused by the machinery. The lifting lugs on the cage are taking all the weight.

When ready for planting, place the tree in the prepared hole, cage and all. The cage is not galvanised and will rust away over a few months. Leaving the cage around the root ball protects the tree from unnecessary damage by giving you a lifting mechanism that removes man handling.

Partially back fill the hole to hold the tree straight, then cut the plastic straps across the top of the root ball and remove the hessian from across the top of the root ball. You can either cut it away, or just push it back out of the way, ensuring you fully expose the top of the root ball. Leave the remaining hessian around the root ball. This will also rot away over a few months and will not impede the health and vigour of the tree at all.

Backfill the remainder of the hole, ensuring there is soil around every part of the root ball that is below the surrounding soil level. Keep the top of the root ball clear of your backfill soil, if you cover the top of the root ball the trees health will deteriorate very quickly.

If the lifting lugs are protruding above the finished soil level remove these so they do not pose a hazard.

Water the tree in well and mulch. We recommend regular applications of Seasol™ once planted to aid re-establishment at your site.