



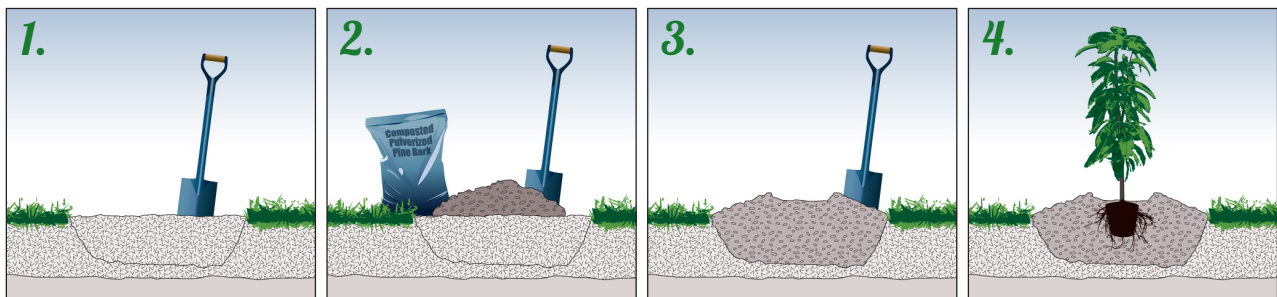
# GreenSheet

## Planting Subtropical Fruit Trees in the Garden

The first year is the most important in the life of a fruit tree. Get it right and you will be well on the way to your first crop of fruit.

### Preparation

A clay-loam needs to be made more friable to encourage fast root growth. Here is a quick method of soil preparation. Deep, well drained loams or sandy soils will need no pre-treatment. These instructions will help to ensure greater success when planting *Avocado, Citrus, Guava, Mango, Custard Apple, Ice Cream Fruit* and other subtropical trees.



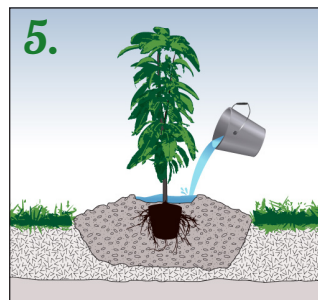
1. Dig over your topsoil in a 60cm to 1m diameter circle to spade depth. Do not dig down into the clay sub-soil, as this will make a sump to drown the roots of your new tree.

2. Sprinkle Gypsum over the dug soil at 1-2 kg per square metre. For each tree position thoroughly mix in 2-3 bags of our special soil improver (which is composted pine bark). Use potting mix if you can't buy our product.

3. Rake up the mixed soil into a mound. This prepared soil should be light and airy to promote rapid root growth from your newly planted tree.

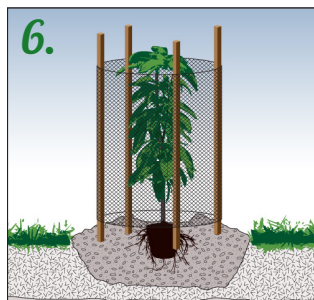
4. Slightly roughen all surfaces of the rootball to stimulate root activity and allow the rootball to key into the prepared surrounding soil.

### Water



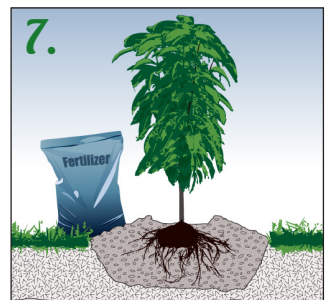
5. Water your tree well...Not too much, not too little. Use about 10-20 litres (1-2 buckets) every 2 or 3 days during the dry months...more often in very hot weather. Apply the water close to the trunk of the young tree. This ensures that the root ball is thoroughly re-wetting each time. Consistent watering is very important in the dry months.

### Shelter



6. Plant trees where the leaves are sheltered from wind. In windy sites always plant subtropical trees with a windguard. Use weldmesh or sheep fence twitched into a cylinder about 1m diameter by 1m high. Wrap a piece of shade cloth around the wire and fasten it with staples. Locate the cover with 4 good stakes. Remove the cover in March, 18-24 months after planting.

### Fertilizer



7. Regular application of a small amount of fertilizer is best for young trees. Apply a closed handful (60g) of Rustica Plus, Complete Mineral Mix, Citrus Food or similar fertilizer. Or, use 2 cupfuls of organic fertilizer. Do this on the first of each month from September to March in year 1. Double this amount in year 2. Sprinkle evenly over all the soil under the tree – water in well.



# GreenSheet

## Planting Fruit Trees *in Pots*

The first year is the most important in the life of a fruit tree. Get it right and you will be well on the way to your first crop of fruit.

### Preparation

- Select your tree with care
- Use a clean pot with plenty of drainage
- Use only PREMIUM potting mix.
- Do not add any garden soil to your pot.
- Cut away the plastic bag or carefully remove from the pot.

### Planting

- Roughen the surface of the rootball by scrubbing lightly with your fingers. This enables the old rootball to 'key-in' with the new potting mix.
- Plant the tree so that the soil level is the same as in the new pot.

### Water

- Keep well watered. However, do not overwater... check moisture level with fingers.

### Pruning

- It is essential to trim the tree regularly. Keep the tree to a size that suits the pot. Keep the diameter of the tree canopy to about twice the diameter of the pot.

### Fertilizer

- Important: The potted tree must be fertilized three times every year.
- Use a slow release product such as MacroCote, NutriCote or Osmocote Plus.
- Apply in September, January and March every season.
- Be sure to use enough fertilizer to keep the leaves green and lush. This quantity may be a lot more than you are used to using.



### Warning

Macadamia trees, like many Australian natives, will not tolerate fertilisers containing phosphorus.

Only use cow, sheep or horse manure in spring

**Please keep these instructions and refer to them as the trees progress.**

Perry's Fruit and Nut Nursery [www.perrysfruitnursery.com.au](http://www.perrysfruitnursery.com.au)