

Alderbury Community Orchard

Tree planting instructions



1. Work in pairs or as a small group.
2. Select your tree and make a note of the variety and locate your planting position – marked out in advance.
3. Remove and discard the turf, excavate a square hole twice the width of your tree root-ball and deep enough to set the tree just below the level of the refill – make sure all roots are well buried.
4. Break up the soil at the bottom of the hole and sprinkle one spoon of rooting compound at the bottom of the hole – make sure it remains on the surface so that it comes into contact with the bare roots.
5. Mix a bucket of compost with the excavated top soil.
6. Hold the tree upright in the hole
7. Insert the watering tube into the heart of the root system and make sure it protrudes at an angle of about 45 degrees and at least 8 inches above ground level.
8. Fill in the hole to ground level and ‘heel in’ the tree gently, making sure the soil is firmly around the roots with no air pockets – level up the hole with more topsoil.
9. Place the mulch disk around the tree stem and watering tube – aligning this with the pre-cut slot. Place a bucket of bark mulch over the top of the disk and around the tree, leaving a dip in the centre to avoid too much damp reaching the stem.
10. Place the rabbit guards around the stem to protect the young bark.
11. Hammer in your stake at around 45 degrees to the tree stem – avoid damaging the tree as you do this. Fix the stake to the stem with the tie provided, making sure it is not too tight – to avoid restricting growth.
12. Write your name (s) on the label and position this at the base of the tree – this will be your tree forever.
13. Step back and admire your work!

Come and join us!

10.00am, Sunday 28th November, 2021 at Waleran Close Alderbury. Bring your gardening gloves, wellies and a spade. Tea and cake afterwards in The Fountain Room at the Village Hall

Alderbury Community Orchard Project

Alderbury and Whaddon Wildlife Group was established to enhance the biodiversity of the village. The community orchard meadow is the first of its many exciting projects.

The community orchard will contain 10 fruit trees - 2 cooking apple trees, 4 eating apple varieties, 2 pear trees and 2 plum trees. Once established, the orchard will provide free fruit for residents.

Next year a wild flower meadow will be planted and as the orchard meadow matures it will attract wildlife and become a feature of the village with apple harvest events and activities.

The project is led and managed by volunteers working in partnership with the Parish Council and Wiltshire Wildlife – find out more on the Council’s website.