

# Omaho trees



## Preparation, planting and after care guide for field grown trees

(To be used as a guide only)

### Preparation

The trees are dug with a tree spade with four concave blades which ensure that the root ball shape corresponds with the natural growth pattern of the roots.

Trees which are likely to be set back by digging just prior to delivery are root-pruned which stimulates the growth of fibrous/feeder roots and minimises any transplantation shock. This ensures that the trees develop strong root systems and adapt readily to their new environment.

24 hours prior to the trees being dug, they are sprayed to the point of run off with an anti-transpirant which assists with the transplantation process.

As soon as the trees are dug, they are put in holes (dug by the tree spade) in which the reinforced wire tree baskets (lined with hessian) have been placed. The holes are filled with water and Seasol (sea weed liquid fertiliser) and Growth Formula (a root stimulant) are added. This means that within

10 minutes of the roots being cut, the trees benefit from this nutrient rich hydration. The hessian is then tied up around the trunks of the trees and firm strapping put in place to ensure that the trees have minimal movement in their baskets while in transit.

We use two different sized tree baskets:

1.1 m diameter x .65 m deep  
(trees 3–3.5 metres in height)

1.4 m diameter x .80 m deep  
(trees from 4–7 metres in height)

They are loaded onto a crane truck at a 45 degree angle and rest against each other, supported by wooden chocks on the floor of the trunk. The truck trailer carrying the trees is then covered with shade cloth to protect them from wind damage. At site, the driver can crane the trees straight into their holes, provided the truck can get within 8–10 metres (depending on the truck) of where the trees are to be planted.



Skid steer and tree spade



1.4m diameter wire basket with strapping



1.4m diameter root ball strapped and ready for loading



*Banksia integrifolia* on truck



*Banksia integrifolia* being craned off truck

A mini excavator (1.5 tonne machine is a good size) is the most suitable equipment for digging holes for the trees.

It is recommended that for a 1.1 m diameter wire basket, a hole of approx. 1.7 m wide x .80 m deep and for a 1.4 m diameter wire basket, a hole of 2 m x 1 m deep is dug. This ensures that there is a buffer of loosened soil around the root ball which provides a good environment into which the new roots can grow. Depending upon the quality of your soil, the backfill for the hole should be a good quality soil mixed with compost.

The smaller baskets can be lifted by four men through putting 2 crow bars through the top wire loops on the baskets (a man at either end of the two crow bars) and carrying the tree in an upright position. The trees in large baskets require either a crane or excavator (at least a 1.5 tonne machine) to lift them as they weigh around 800–850 kg weight per tree including a moist root ball. Trees in 1.1 m wire baskets weigh around 400–450 kg.

For enquiries, quotations and forward ordering, please contact us at [info@emahotrees.com.au](mailto:info@emahotrees.com.au) or phone +61 7 4697 8018 or mobile 0418 643 240.

## Planting and After Care

1. Half fill the holes with water (provided they are in a free draining situation).
2. The trees are to be planted in their baskets as the hessian rots down quickly and the wire degrades over time. The strapping can be left in place as this will ensure that the trees do not move in their baskets during their establishment period, particularly in high wind situations. This means that the trees will not need staking/guying.
3. Make sure that the top of the root ball is level with the surrounding soil or it can be slightly raised if drainage is an issue.
4. While back-filling with soil/compost, use a hose to apply water down the edge of the root ball to expel air pockets.
5. Water once a week for the first month, using approx. 150–200 litres of water.
6. After the first month, Seasol can be applied at the rate of 1 litre per 250 litres of water (only once) and can be applied as a foliar spray at the rate of 1 litre per 500 litres of water at any stage after the first month.
7. Water once a fortnight after the first month, three times (6 week period) – this is assuming there is no rain in that time period. After this, the trees should not need further watering unless there are prolonged dry periods.
8. Ensure that the site where the trees are to be planted has adequate drainage. Poor drainage can remove the oxygen available to the roots from the soil. It is wise, before planting, to dig a test hole around 300mm wide x 300mm deep. Fill the hole with water and see how long it takes for the water to drain away. If it takes more than 6 hours, you may have a drainage issue.
9. Do not drown the tree – the root ball only needs to be moist. Overwatering and poor drainage are the main cause of tree failure.
10. Do not apply slow release/solid fertilizers at the time of planting. These can be applied after six months. We recommend an organic fertiliser, e.g. a 2:1 mixture of pelletized chicken manure and blood and bone.

## Advantages of Field Grown Trees

Advantages of our field grown trees in comparison with container grown trees:

1. Develop larger, stronger trunks and are more balanced in terms of height and spread. They are similar in form to trees grown naturally in the landscape.
2. Grow stronger root systems through the practice of root pruning which stimulates new fibrous/feeder roots. Also, when the trees are dug for dispatch, even more fibrous/feeder roots develop and within a couple of months are spreading out into their new environment. Our trees are treated with Growth Formula and Seasol which further encourages strong root growth.
3. Are hardy and need less water than container grown stock. In the field they are only watered by natural rainfall, so have adapted to going through dry periods.
4. Suited to a wide range of climates throughout Australia as they are produced at an elevation of 750 metres. This includes Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Sydney and Melbourne.
5. Adapt more readily to their new environment, as they are grown in soil rather than a potting mix.

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