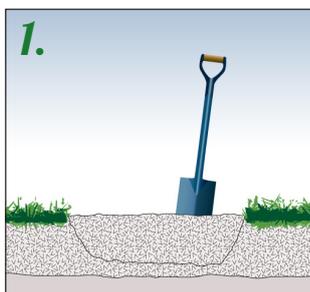


Planting Subtropical Fruit Trees in the GARDEN

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.

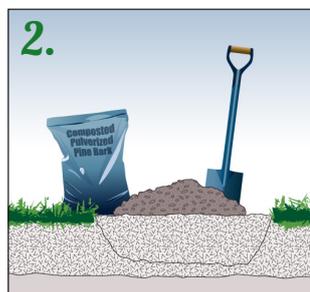
Preparation

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.**



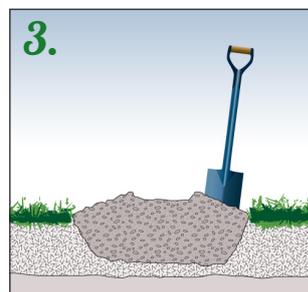
1. Dig over your topsoil in a 1m diameter circle to spade depth.

Do not dig down into the clay sub-soil, as this will make a sump to drown the roots of your new tree.

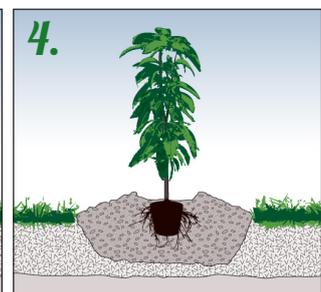


2. Sprinkle Gypsum over the dug soil at 1-2 kg per square metre.

Thoroughly mix in one or two 70 litre bags of Composted Pulverized Pine Bark OR four bags of cheap potting mix with your topsoil.

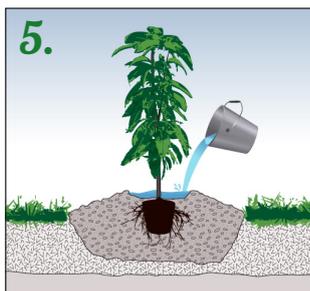


3. Rake up the mixed soil into a low, flat-topped mound.



4. Plant the tree in the centre of the mound at the same depth as the soil in the pot. Roughen the surface of the rootball with your fingers.

Water



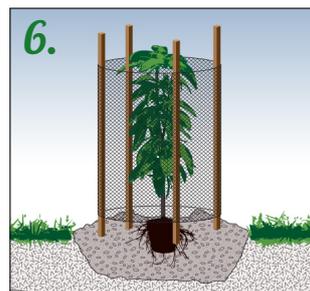
5. Water your tree well...Not too much, not too little.

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 shadecloth 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 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.