

Thank you for being a part of The Neighbouring Orchard. Your tree will form part of a network of apple trees across Portobello, Craigmillar and Musselburgh. We hope that in time, you will get to know your neighbouring trees – keep an eye out for them in front gardens, tenement greens as well as schools, nurseries and community gardens - and in coming years we look forward to being able to meet up as shared growers, to press our apples and share our harvests, recipes and more.

Apple trees require some attention in their first few years to become healthy and established. This booklet shows you how to plant, feed and nurture your tree. We hope you enjoy spending time with your new tree and seeing how it grows over the course of the seasons.

Please share any images as you plant and nurture your tree. We would like to see where it's been planted, its blossom and harvests through the years.

Share to:
Instagram @neighbouringorchard
Facebook @artwalkporty

Or email with any images or queries to the address below.

appletrees@artwalkporty.co.uk

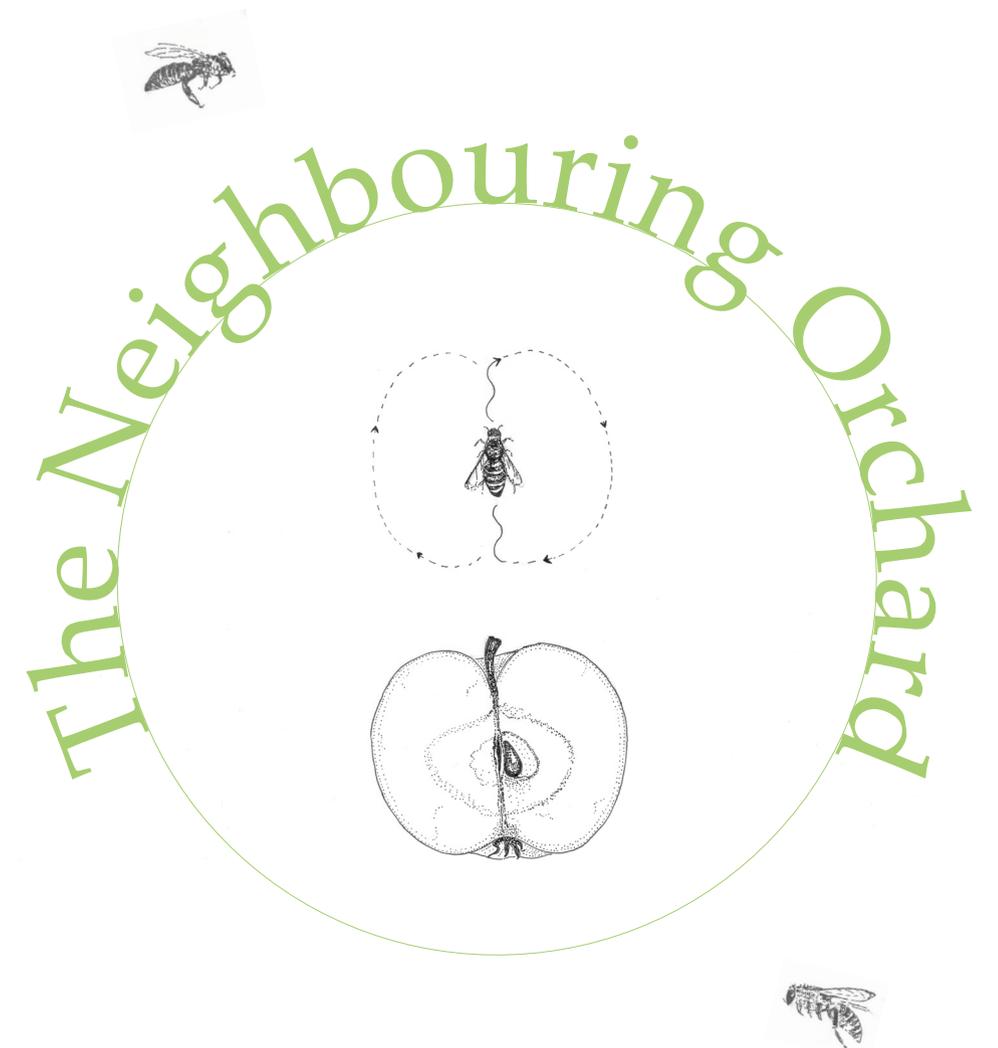
Useful Resources & Future Events

For more resources and info on taking care of your tree including detailed instructions on pruning, please visit the Art Walk website Neighbouring Orchard page. We will update this page with related links as the project unfolds. We also plan to host pruning and other workshops in the future. To keep in touch with all the information visit:

www.artwalkporty.co.uk/neighbouring-orchard.html



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PLANTING GUIDE

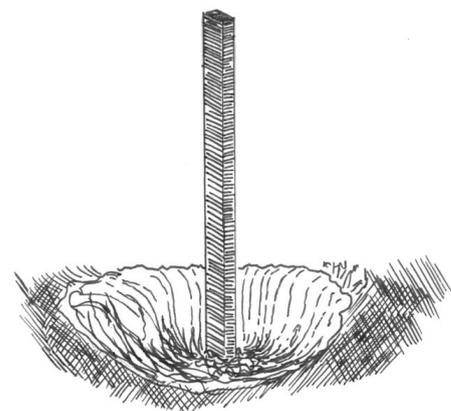


Planting your tree

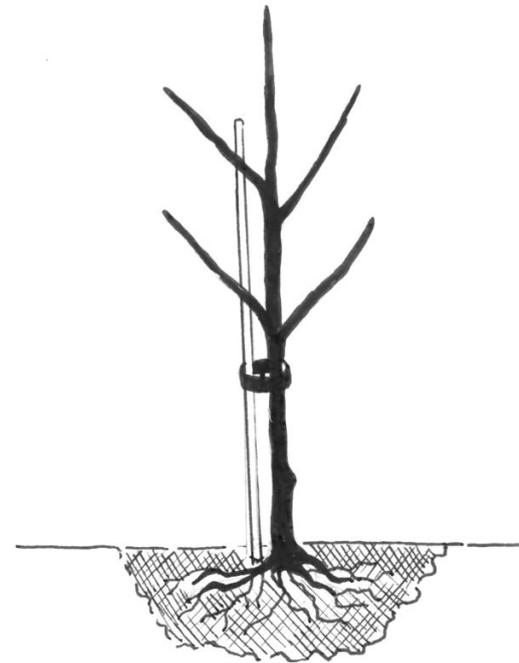
1) Your tree will arrive as a bare root tree and must be planted straight away. Keep the roots in the dark and soak them for 15 mins before planting if they are dry.



2) Prepare the ground by digging up turf and weeds and removing any large stones. Dig a large hole that is wider and deeper than the roots of your tree.



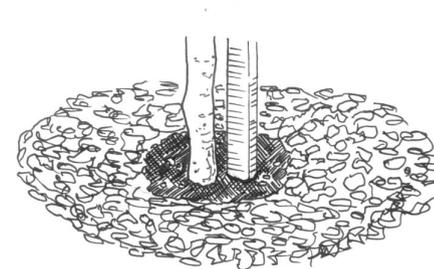
3) Hammer the stake into the hole.



4) Gently place the tree into the hole, next to the stake. The soil should come up to the 'nursery line' marked by a change of colour on the stem. The graft union should be above ground – it looks like a raised scar or lump on the stem. Fill in the hole with the soil you have just removed, making sure it fills in all the gaps around the roots. Firm the soil by pressing it down. Attach the tree to the stake using the tie – make sure to leave it some space to grow.

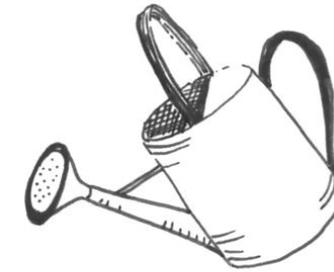


5) Spread a 1m ring of mulch around the tree, keeping it clear from the stem to prevent rot. You can use compost, leaf mould or manure. The mulch helps to feed the tree and preserves moisture. Keep the mulch topped up to 5cm deep.



Weeding

Keep the ground around your tree clear of weeds and grass so that they don't compete with the young tree. Mulch will help to suppress them.



Watering

Make sure to water your tree throughout spring and summer. Use a full watering can, once a week, more if it's dry. If your tree is in a container this is particularly important.

Pruning

Pruning is done in the winter months. Make sure to always use sharp secateurs so as to not damage the branches and to cut on a diagonal above an outwards facing bud. Pruning is used in the first 3 years to encourage strong growth and to create the desired shape.

