

Planting tube stock

How to plant tube stock at home

- Give the tubes a good soak as soon as you get them home.
- Plant them as soon as possible. If you are not planting immediately, store the tubes in full sun and water them regularly. It is best to plant in cool weather. In warmer weather plant in the morning or late afternoon.
- Soak the tubes heavily in a bucket of water prior to planting. Good results are obtained by soaking in a seaweed extract.
- Remove any weed competition from the planting site.
- Dig a hole that is deeper and wider than the tube then back fill with some loose soil that has come from the hole. If the soil is dry, fill the hole with water and wait for it to soak in.
- Remove the plant from the tube by gently squeezing the base and the bottom corners of the tube. Place your fingers over the top of the tube, turn it upside down and move your hands repeatedly in a downward motion to slide the plant from the tube. For stubborn tubes tap the edge of the tube on something hard (e.g. a fence post). Always tap, never pull the plant out of the tube.
- Do not tease the roots. State Flora tubes have root trainers which prevent plants from becoming root bound.
- Place the plant in the centre of the hole and back fill with loose soil. The top of the root ball should be just covered and be just below the existing soil level. Mounding any leftover soil to create a basin one metre wide around the plant will help with watering.
- Water the plant heavily, giving it a good soak.
- Mulch around the plant to a depth of 50-100mm, this will conserve soil moisture and reduce weed competition.
- Protect your plants with tree guards if frost or vermin are going to be a problem.
- In most cases you will not need to stake your plants. If you do, use three stakes rather than a single stake and a single tie. Use tree tie or old stockings. Remove the stakes early, as soon as the plant is stable.
- A future watering guide is hard to prescribe. It depends on the weather, the time of the year and the soil type. However if you need to water, always water heavily to encourage a deep root system.
- Fertilising is optional but Australian native plants will benefit from an application of an organic, or a slow release fertiliser, with low levels of Phosphorous.