

## Healthy Habitat for Schools

## Fact Sheet 9

# How to plant in your school yard

### 10 Steps to planting:

1. Dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as the plant's root ball. Set aside soil in a neat pile and add planting mix if necessary (1 part mix to 2 parts soil).
2. Loosen up the sides of the hole to promote root penetration.
3. Make sure the roots are not tangled.
4. Add slow release fertiliser and water crystals.
5. Place the root ball in the hole so the top is sitting 3 cm above the soil level.
6. Backfill with soil and fertiliser. Don't backfill with compost as it does not have oxygen. Pack firmly to remove air pockets.
7. Create a well around your tree with soil to help retain water and reduce water runoff.
8. Place mulch to a depth of 150mm around the base of your tree, but away from the trunk to prevent rot.
9. Stake trees, large shrubs and other plants that could be damaged by the wind. Use ties to secure your plant to the stake while allowing movement and growth.
10. Thoroughly water the plant immediately and then regularly for 6 months.



### Creating a natural visual and noise barrier along the school fence:

This should be comprised of flood tolerant trees and shrubs, planted to form a closed canopy that will not require slashing. Plant the tallest trees towards the fence with medium trees as spacers and a zone of medium trees and shrubs across the boundary to create a complete 'wall' of vegetation.



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Use the table below for the most ideal plantings of trees for your forest community.

Tall	Medium	Small	Medium	Tall
Medium	Small	Medium	Small	Medium
Small	Medium	Tall	Medium	Small
Medium	Small	Medium	Small	Medium
Tall	Medium	Small	Medium	Tall



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