

## The treatment of established trees and plants with rootgrow mycorrhizal fungi



The easiest and most successful stages for inoculating plants with *rootgrow* mycorrhizal fungi is to treat them either when propagating in the nursery, when potting on or later at the outplanting stage by sprinkling the *rootgrow* granules into the planting hole. The aim in all cases is to allow new roots to grow through the layer of *rootgrow* so that the symbiosis between plant and fungus can be established as quickly and efficiently as possible.

It is however possible to treat already established plants, though the mycorrhizal colonisation will establish at a slower rate and sometimes requires larger quantities of *rootgrow*.

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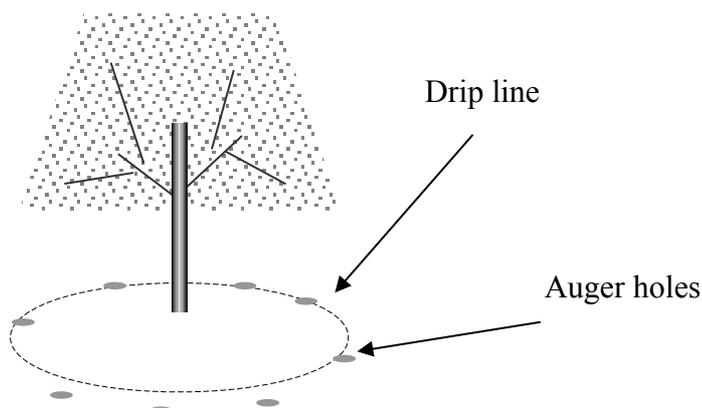
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## Established trees and shrubs

If a tree or shrub has been planted and it appears to lack vigour, it may be that it is lacking its fungal partner. To inoculate an established tree one needs to drill a series of 1" diameter holes with a metal spike or an auger into the active feeder root zone of the tree. The feeder root zone is usually a ring roughly below the drip zone of the canopy. For example, if the tree you wish to treat has a diameter of 3 metres, you need to mark out a circle of this diameter with the trunk as the centre. The holes should be about 15-25cm deep depending on the size of the tree and you will need 20ml of *rootgrow* per hole. Simply pour the granules down into the holes and plug up with soil afterwards. The number of holes is largely a matter of judgement but should be no more than 1m apart and spaced evenly around the circle.



## Recently out-planted containerised or bare-rooted plants

To treat a containerised plant that has not had the benefit of *rootgrow* when it was planted out, simply make a series of 2.5cm holes between 10 and 20cm deep down the sides of the original

rootball at the interface of the soil into which it was planted. Pour 20 ml of rootgrow down each hole, plug up the holes with soil and water well. Plants that were bare-rooted such as roses can benefit from incorporating **rootgrow** into the root system in a similar manner. Typically, a containerised rose/shrub provided in a 3 litre pot will require two or three holes.

### **Mature Trees / hedges**

Large trees or hedges in parkland or urban amenity land can suffer from the effects of soil compaction. This has the effect not only of causing physical damage to roots but changing the physical, chemical and biological nature of the soil that in turn can have negative effects on the health of trees. The physical de-compaction of the soil can be remedied using a gas de-compaction process called 'Terravent'. The Terravent probe sends a blast of air into the soil opening up fissures and allowing improved water holding capacity and aeration. **Rootgrow** mycorrhiza in the form of a gel can be pumped down into the root zone of the tree to re-vitalise the mycorrhizal process.

Over dosing will not adversely affect a plant!