



Mistletoe Trees

Caring for your tree

The Tree:

Rootstock

All Mistletoe Trees are on dwarfing rootstocks, most Mistletoe Trees will get to an average ultimate height of 3 - 4m depending on variety. Due to this, make sure you stake the tree when planting to enable the roots to anchor the tree. Keep it staked for a few years in any location, and think about permanently staking it if in exposed/windy locations or on shallow soils.

Tree variety

For specific information on each variety please see the [Royal Horticultural Society website](#), which has advice on pruning, positioning, and hardiness.

Planting:

If your tree came bare root – make sure you unwrap the tree and soak the rootstock in water the day you receive it.

After a short soak (an hour or two) you can either plant the tree in a large (40 litre +) pot with compost or plant it straight into soil if you can plant it straight away.

- Avoid planting in cold or frosty weather!
- Plant anytime between late autumn and early spring (depending on dormancy).
- Dig a hole one third wider than the roots and to the same depth, crumble the edges for better mixing of the root system and the soil.
- Insert the tree and the stake, fill with any sort of compost (and some extra topsoil perhaps) leaving a mound around the trunk. Compact it tightly to hold the tree up and get better root-soil contact.



Maintenance:

Tree

The tree will need plenty of water after you plant it, make sure that you keep watering it throughout its first year especially if there are dry periods in the summer as the roots may not be fully settled yet.

Mulching can help to feed the tree nutrients and retain more moisture in the soil but be careful not to apply too much nutrient rich material, as this can cause the leaf scorching.

Pruning, Diseases and Pests

For specific information on each variety please see the [Royal Horticultural Society website](#)

Mistletoe

Early growth

Keep an eye on your mistletoe while it is young. It is often hard to see and can look different depending on how it has germinated. See the pictures below for the variety of forms it can take, each mistletoe plant may also be at different stages of growth.



Do not be alarmed if your mistletoe looks like this. Often the mistletoe will still be growing, but slowly. Note the yellow, dead, mistletoe plant in the last picture. If it is green it is still alive.

*For more information please contact me on hwebber@skreensparkfarm.co.uk
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Pruning

For the first 3 years, leave the mistletoe to grow as much as it can. **Once the mistletoe plant reaches a size similar to your hand span (15cm/6inches) consider pruning** smaller branches out (see photo opposite), leaving a couple of larger branches to get bigger. This will help produce decent sprigs for decorations.

After year 5, the mistletoe will grow more vigorously, so make sure you sustain the size of mistletoe plant that you want on the tree. Do not let it outgrow the tree as this will put stress on the tree and it will be more likely to die from other diseases.

As there are always 3 or more mistletoe plants on each tree, once you know you have a male and a female, **consider removing the other mistletoe plants** to reduce the pressure on the tree.

Always ensure the tree is healthy when considering managing the mistletoe, if the tree dies so will the mistletoe.



Mistletoe Tree – This tree is ready to be pruned to thin out the branches you do not want.

Disease and Pests

Mistletoe itself is thought to be generally free of pests and diseases. However, from my own experience there are quite a few pests that can cause damage to your mistletoe plant.

Watch out for bird interest in the mistletoe, especially when it is young. If you have a problem consider making a small mesh cover for the young mistletoe plant (remember it needs light to keep photosynthesising).

Mistletoe is often the only source of green food during the winter for snails and caterpillars. Therefore, do check for any damage and consider options for deterring them (I have heard garlic spray works quite well).

Guarantee

This guide will be available on the website and will be continually updated. Every tree is guaranteed to have at least 3 mistletoe seeds germinated on it giving a good chance of male and female. I endeavour to provide healthy trees with healthy, growing mistletoe but cannot be responsible for the trees once delivered or during delivery if couriered. Please follow this guidance and any further advice to reduce the risks of failure, these are living gifts and as such need good management. If you have any problems send a description and photographs to me and I will help where possible.

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