

*Truffle*



*Trees*

# ***TRUFFLE BOOKLET***

*for Tuber melanosporum, Tuber  
Borchii and Tuber aestivum var.  
uncinatum*

*Planting and growing  
Instructions*



WRCE winners and Winner of Winners national finalists  
for truffle cultivation technology

# **Introduction**

**Hello and congratulations on becoming an owner of a tree that can grow truffles!**

**We thought you would be interested to learn about:**

- **How to choose and prepare you planting site**
- **How to care for your tree**
- **How and when to look for truffles!**

# Choosing and preparing your Planting site for Summer truffle trees

## ***Choosing a site:***

The UK Summer Truffle's natural habitat is shady woodland. Your tree can be grown in shady or open areas. It is best planted directly into the ground, but can also grow for several years in a pot on a balcony or patio.

## ***pH:***

The ideal soil for your truffle-tree is well drained with a high pH. pH is a measure of acidity and can be tested with simple kits from most garden centres. The ideal pH for the UK Summer truffle is 7.3 – 7.6. If your pH is too low then it can be easily increased by applying a small amount of lime to the planting site. Garden lime is available from most garden centres and should be well raked into the area where your tree will be planted.

**For more information, log-on to:**  
**[www.NativeTruffle.com](http://www.NativeTruffle.com)**

# Choosing and preparing your Planting site for Spring truffle trees

## ***Choosing a site:***

The UK Spring Truffle's natural habitat is shady woodland. Your tree can be grown in shady or open areas. It is best planted directly into the ground, but can also grow for several years in a pot on a balcony or patio.

## ***pH:***

The ideal soil for your truffle-tree is well drained with a medium to high pH. pH is a measure of acidity and can be tested with simple kits from most garden centres. The ideal pH for the Borchii truffle is 6.0 – 7.6. If your pH is too low then it can be easily increased by applying a small amount of lime to the planting site. Garden lime is available from most garden centres and should be well raked into the area where your tree will be planted.

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# Choosing and preparing your Planting site for Winter truffle trees

## ***Choosing a site:***

The black winter truffle's natural habitat is warm open woodland. The best place for your tree is therefore an area of your garden that is sheltered but not shaded.

## ***pH:***

The ideal soil for your truffle-tree is well drained with a high pH. pH is a measure of acidity and can be tested with simple kits from most garden centres. The ideal pH for the black winter truffle is 7.9 – 8.1. If your pH is too low then it can be easily increased by applying a small amount of lime to the planting site. Garden lime is available from most garden centres and should be well raked into the area where your tree will be planted.

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## Planting your tree

Once your site is prepared you can and should plant your tree as soon as possible. Please follow these four steps:

- 1) Dig a hole at your planting site approximately the same size as the pot your tree is in.
- 2) Carefully remove your tree's pot/sleeve taking care not to disturb the roots or lose any soil from the packaging.
- 3) Place the tree into the prepared hole so that the level of soil in the packaging is at the same height as the surrounding earth. If any soil came free when removing the tree from the pot then place it in the planting hole.
- 4) Gently firm the tree in and water.

### ***Additional advisable steps:***

- 1) If rabbits, hares or deer are present in your area then it is advisable to protect your tree with a tree guard/plastic sleeve.
- 2) If your tree is planted in an exposed site then it is advisable to attach the tree to a support. This stage may be beneficial in most situations.

## Caring for your tree

Once you have planted your tree, follow these three steps to make sure your tree remains healthy:

1) Keep your tree well watered especially during the early years before the tree becomes well established.

2) Keep the area directly around your tree well weeded, especially during the early years before the tree becomes well established.

3) If you have ordered a Hazel tree then it is advisable to remove the fallen leaves in autumn as they have an acidifying effect and may reduce the pH of your soil.

4) Keep the pH of the soil around your tree at the required level.

# When and how to look for truffles

## **When:**

If your tree remains healthy, watered and the soil conditions are right then you may be lucky enough to find truffles in as little as 3 years from planting! However, more often trees start to produce in years 4-6. Some trees may take longer and some shorter. This is why it is normally best to have a number of trees.

The harvesting periods differ for each species:

### **The black winter truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*)**

is normally harvested from December-March.

### **The UK Summer truffle (*Tuber aestivum* var. *uncinatum*)**

is normally harvested from June - November.

### **The UK Spring truffle (*Tuber Borchii*)**

is normally harvested in Spring time.



## ***How:***

Truffles are traditionally found with the aid of an untrained pig who will naturally seek out the truffles. However, these days commercial truffle farms use trained dogs as they are less likely to eat the truffle and work quicker and usually more efficiently. If you only have a few trees then you may be able to find truffles without a pig or trained dog.

1) If you look carefully around your trees you may notice small cracks in the ground, underneath these cracks there may lurk truffles.

2) You can look for the presence of the 'truffle-fly'. This is a small fly that hovers directly over where truffles are buried. If you disturb the top layer of soil and look closely you may be able to see a group of tiny flies hovering over the surface. This is normally an indication that a truffle is lurking directly below.

3) Smell. Although the human nose is a pretty poor utensil in comparison to our canine friends, you may be able to use it to locate truffles. If you get on your hands and knees (ignoring any strange looks from neighbours) and sniff the ground directly you may be able to locate ripe truffles by their scent alone.

4) The final, and most destructive, method of looking for truffles is to gently scrape away the top layer of soil around your trees. This has to be done very slowly and delicately to minimise damage and ensure you locate any truffles. This technique can be used if you are desperate but is not recommended as it is so destructive.

## **Keep us updated!**

We are passionate about truffles and would love to hear your experience with our trees. If you find truffles, notice anything unusual or discover a brulée (lack of vegetation, looking like a 'burn' around your tree which may indicate truffle development) log on to [www.NativeTruffle.com](http://www.NativeTruffle.com) and e-mail us to let us know how your tree is developing.

## **Want to train you dog to look for truffles? Interested in establishing a full size plantation?**

Log on to [www.NativeTruffle.com](http://www.NativeTruffle.com) to discover how to train your dog to hunt for truffles and how truffles are grown commercially.



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