

## Pruning

Generally most ornamental trees don't need pruning once they are established.

This information is about the benefits of pruning at the time of transplanting your bare root trees.

It is incredible the difference it makes when you prune your trees. If you have spent larger amounts to get an advanced specimen pruning is even more essential. Although it seems sad to spend extra on a large tree and then remove a lot of its canopy you are still getting a larger root ball and trunk etc that will mean you will still initially end up with a larger more instant tree.

When the trees are dug from the nursery, their roots are naturally pruned in the process. This means that some of the power (which comes from the roots) has been reduced and the canopy needs to also be balanced out to match the root ball size. It's all about the root to shoot ratio.

You must be brave because the more you take off now the faster your tree will grow. At a minimum you should lighten the canopy by 30%. This means that you can remove or shorten in some of the side branches and in some case it's even beneficial to prune the leader right back. If you're ever in doubt, choose to take more than less off your tree!

After decades of experience with tree planting we here at the Small tree farm are complete believers in the benefits of hard pruning after seeing results time and time again. We are more than happy to prune your trees here at the nursery before they even travel which will minimise their stress.