



## OPTIMISING YOUR PLANTING

☞ **Before planting**, consider the previous crops. Bio-disinfectants (sorghum or tagetes) or plant cover (mustard or phacelia) can be very interesting, especially in terms of nitrogen input. A previous cereal crop (wheat, rye, etc.) can also be beneficial.

☞ **In May**, take a soil sample for chemical and physical analysis of the soil.

☞ **Prepare the soil** in summer.

☞ **Weed** the plot at the end of July and decompact it in August.

☞ **Spread well-decomposed manure** to limit any ammonia release, and/or add phosphorus/potash/magnesium/lime mineral nutrients (depending on pH) if there is a need for correction linked to the soil analysis results.) Plough immediately afterwards.

☞ Carry out **2 cross passes** of the rotary harrow to have the finest soil possible.

☞ **In the case of mounds**, put them in place by laying biodegradable tarpaulins immediately, in dry weather, in order to allow for planting in the best soil conditions.

☞ It is recommended that the **inter-row areas be grassed** from September onwards, with, for example, a mixture of 80% creeping fescue and 20% rye grass.

☞ Remove the tarpaulin from the soil when the trees are received.

☞ **Prepare the root system** of the trees and install the rabbit proof sleeves.

☞ **In late planting conditions** and/or in dry and windy conditions, hydrate the trees

☞ **Plant by machine or spade. DO NOT USE A CROWBAR:** risk of smoothing along the soil walls. Also avoid using a spade.

☞ **Pack the soil** at the foot of the trees to avoid the formation of air pockets and take advantage of this to homogenise the height of the grafting points in relation to the soil. Ideally, the height of the grafting point should be between 10 and 15 cm from the ground.

☞ It is essential to **tie up the trees** at the time of planting to avoid air holes in the soil and/or breakage of the trees.

☞ **Irrigate immediately** after planting.

☞ **Apply a first maintenance fertiliser**, just before bud break. The phosphorus element will favour the root development of the trees.



☞ **Important:** do not compete with the trees by any possible presence (weak to strong) of weeds during the first year.

☞ **In very light soils,** plan a second watering 15 days after planting and, if necessary, tamp down trees that seem poorly anchored to the soil.

☞ **Do not stop the vegetative growth** of the trees throughout the season: no fruit the first year, good sanitary monitoring of the orchard, reasoning of irrigation, manuring...

**Note: the deeper the grafting point is buried in the ground, the stronger the vegetative reactions will be. The higher the grafting point, the less the plant will develop.**

