

# A QUICK GUIDE TO...

## TREE PLANTING & MOVING TREES

John Nicholson offers Ten Top Tips on Moving Trees.

**Tree spades have been used since Georgian times when hedgerows would often be moved and even Capability Brown was known to be familiar with them.**

The first consideration when either planting or moving a tree is whether the location you are moving the tree to is a correct one. Here is a useful check list which you should use to assess the situation however expert advice is also essential but I would of course say this! However to quote Alistair Mackenzie "perhaps the most serious mistake made by a golf committee is that they will save money by neglecting to get expert advice"

The following are therefore only guidelines for consideration:

### 1. Consider the location

Consider the location of planting in relation to greens, tees and fairways - light and air are essential to maintain good disease free playing surfaces. Also think about the eventual height and form of the trees to be planted, they do grow and do extend sideways as they mature!

### 2. Consider the trees' appropriateness to the landscape

Consider the trees' appropriateness to the landscape as ornamental trees can destroy the natural appeal of a golf course. It should not be forgotten that most of the great courses not only have a sound layout but also have a natural landscape. With the exception of Augusta I cannot think of an ornate course which receives much acclaim.

### 3. Consider the effect of proposed planting on the maintenance of the course.

Encroachment can cause uneven wear to tees as players will naturally favour the unimpeded line of play, often effectively reducing the size of tees.



### 4. Consider the impact planting may have on the strategy of the golf hole

This can remove the adventure from a risk and reward situation. Trees form a strong three dimensional hazard which can often conflict with strategic golf. How often have I seen doglegs forced by trees and when asked why you receive the answer? "Well Bill can drive this green so we stopped him!" When perhaps a pat on the back would have been more appropriate why would you want to stop a good shot being rewarded?

### 5. Increase sustainability and cut costs

If possible grow a tree in situ from a small size this will produce a better specimen long term and will establish quickly if the correct maintenance is employed. It is also much more cost effective. Also if possible plant coppers as the long term sustainability is improved as you are not relying on one tree.

### 6. Less root means less chance of survival!

If instant height is required for safety or other reasons then a tree spade may be the thing. However the temptation is always to be too greedy and move a tree which is too large, be careful to select a good strong well formed specimen. It is essential that the size of the root ball is appropriate to the size

of the tree which is to be removed, less root less chance of survival! Tree spades come in a variety of sizes ranging from 1 metre to 3 metres generally.

### 7. Take care!

Take care that you are not moving a tree which has been sheltered into an exposed position.

### 8. Plan Ahead

If possible move the tree over a three year period, severing the roots on two sides the first year then the other two the following season. This will ensure a compact root ball is created for moving in year three.

### 9. Ensure the tree is secured properly after planting.

Any root movement will cause inevitable death and make sure that the trees are watered the following season after planting from spring to the end of summer.

### 10. Keep an eye on tree health

Monitor the trees' health, looking at leaf cover and shoot extension.

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