

3 steps

- to a beautiful willow tree

1. A willow tree must be planted as a normal tree. Dig a suitable hole and loosen the soil at the bottom of the hole. Fill it with water. Plant the willow tree when the water has sunk.
2. Make sure that the trunk remains in its form as you remove the pot. For security, you may tie up the braid at the bottom of the tree before removing the pot (remember to remove them again when planting has been completed).
3. Plant the tree and press the soil firmly to prevent too much air along the roots. Finish by watering the tree. Continue with daily watering for the first 3-4 weeks until the tree is well in growth.



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How to nurse living willow trees



Baugaarden *living art*

Willow tree guidance

This guide answers the most common questions about planting and nursing of your willow tree.

Should you have questions that are not answered in this guide, please contact us by phone +45 40 307 306 or email info@baugaarden.dk.

Good luck with your willow tree.

Best regards,

Baugaarden

Planting

If you have purchased your willow tree in spring, only small sprouts are visible. At this stage the roots are very small and cannot hold the braided shape of the trunk when you remove the pot. If you plant the willow tree before beginning of June, you should put plastic ties around each point of the braided trunk just above the ground before the pot is removed. Then you make sure that the trunk remains in its original shape.

Dig a suitable hole, fill it with water, let the water sink and loosen the soil at the bottom. Plant the willow tree and press the soil firmly around the tree. The new willow tree must be well watered for the first 3-4 weeks and after this period it will be able to draw up water itself.

The willow tree tolerates shade as well as sun. We recommend covering the ground around the tree with mulch or gravel to give the tree the best growing conditions. Keep a minimum distance of 1 meter from house walls or eaves, so the tree gets enough light.

Growth

In spring the willow tree will grow sprouts. The sprouts which grow along the trunk must be cut off. The sprouts at the top will become branches and create the crown. The branches have to be cut at least twice during the summer. For a dense crown cut the new branches down to 8-10 cm length. For a more transparent crown the branches should be cut to at 15-20 cm length. Do not cut the willow sticks that form the trunk but only the new branches. If the willow tree is exposed to heavy wind the crown must be cut more often the first couple of years until the trunk has grown together.

In early August you cut the willow tree for the last time before winter. In April you can start cutting the crown and a new crown full of sprouts will show when spring comes.

Nursing

Willow requires a lot of water. We recommend to cover the ground around the tree with mulch or gravel. When the tree has established roots it needs no watering, as the cover material helps to retain the soil moisture. However, the willow tree needs watering if it is a long and dry summer. You can add fertilizer, but it will usually not be necessary as the tree itself absorb proper amount of nutrition from the soil.

If your willow tree includes an iron stand, you will once a year need to move and replace the plastic ties that keep the willow to the iron. This will avoid the original ties to damage the willow tree as it grows.

If your willow tree has bands of dried willow, you will find plastic ties underneath these bands that hold the willow sticks together. Over the years, the willow sticks will grow together, and then, all ties and bands can be removed.

In winter

Willow is winter hardy and must be placed in the garden all year. Severe frost should not damage the willow tree if it is planted in the garden and has established roots.

Insect attacks

In summer the willow tree can be attacked by insects such as aphids or caterpillars. It will not kill the willow tree, but early treatment is recommended to avoid great damage of the leaves.

Remove the infested leaves and branches and if the attack is severe you can cut the whole crown so a new and healthy crown can be formed. Do not cut the willow sticks that form the trunk but only the new branches.

Furthermore, the willow tree can tolerate common insecticides. These can be purchased at the local garden center.

Planting in pots

The willow tree is not suitable for planting in a pot, as the tree consumes a lot of water. However, if you choose to plant the tree in a pot, the tree should be watered every day regardless of the weather. You also have to fertilize the tree regularly. Start fertilizing when the tree is 2-3 months old and has a mature root system.

The willow tree must never dry out. In case this happens, the tree will quickly shed leaves, but may be able to recover if you cut back the crown. Remember to cut only the new branches and sprouts and not the main willow sticks that form the trunk.

