

FARM FORESTRY CO Ltd

w. www.farmforestry.co.uk e. sales@farmforestry.co.uk t. 01588 650496

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SHELTERS

CONTINENTAL FINE MESH SHELTERS 1.2m and 1.5m

Do not erect these shelters as if they were tubes - please read these instructions!

SUPPORT - NB Stake size is of paramount importance:-

Depending on site, soil depth and type and exposure, normally the following stakes are satisfactory. When knocked in, stakes must offer support to a fine mesh shelter to within 6" of guard top.

Guard Sawn stake (treated)

1.2m 1.5m (5') long 32mm x 32mm diameter or greater

1.5m 1.8m (6') long 32mm x 32mm diameter or greater

Cleft chestnut stakes can be used, but often vary in diameter and may warp. If used, 10" tie may be required, however we do not recommend cleft chestnut, as they often bend over as they dry out.

A – Remove Shelter from Box

This is easy, but hard to explain!

B – Aim to make the shelter fold all the way down its length, squeezing the mesh with thumb and forefinger if necessary, so as to create another fold, (the opposite to the folds it was flat packed with).

To achieve this:

The easiest way is to insert your hand into the shelter top, splay your fingers, whilst, with your other hand push and pat the shelter against your side. Pull the guard upwards with one hand, whilst encouraging the shelter to go square with the other. The shelters are originally made with the second fold, so once it is reminded of this fact it should hold a square form.

C – Stretch one end of the shelter by flaring material, it will stretch and hold its shape so keeping the shelter open. Flaring the top properly is important so no abrasion of the tree is caused by rubbing once it grows out of the shelter. (DO NOT turn the top over). (It is not necessary to flare the bottom).

D – Plant the tree after scraping the immediate area. Flatten the ground and remove obstructions such as branch debris if a replant site. Create a plateau if on steep ground.

E – Knock in stake approx 8cm from tree, and to a depth so that it is **no more than 150mm (6") below the shelter top. The stake should be on the windward side of the tree.** If the stake is knocked in too low down the shelter, the shelter top may fold over if a high wind or in snow.

F – Place shelter over tree and stake. Place so the stake **fits neatly down the line of the weakest fold** so as to re-inforce the shape and corner of the shelter.

G – For 1.2m Continental – Tension shelter to ground with one hand and staple in two places, on two different faces of the stake, 150mm down from the top of the shelter, and 300mm above the ground. (Tensioning the shelter to the ground will prevent a gap appearing underneath shelter if the soil settles following planting of tree).

Soil can be heaped around the base of the mesh if needed. Vegetation and moss generally grows through the mesh so that it is secured to the ground naturally.

For 1.5m Continental – Staple in three places, top, middle and 300mm from the ground at the bottom.

Please see website for photographic advice

BEATING UP

Walk down tree rows in Sept and view trees through mesh, whilst trees are still in leaf. Mark with paint, the posts of shelters if tree found to be dead, for easy spotting in winter and replacing.

NOTE - Stakes placed inside shelters should be removed prior to damage occurring, as the tree fills the bottom of the shelter and comes into contact with the stake.

Shelters should be removed before any damage occurs, however they will stretch and provide some protection against deer if left on.

SITING - In windy areas and in some circumstances, if trees have grown very fast, they may not be able to support themselves as they grow out of the shelter. In such circumstances it is recommended that the trees be tied to the post top to prevent any possible abrasion against the shelter top, if the tree flops around. Alternatively the shelter could be cut down in height. (Floppy trees due to exceptional growth can happen even in entirely unguarded situations, and also if grown in tube type shelters).

In exceptionally windy sites fencing should be preferred rather than 1.2m and 1.5m shelters, (please see our plastic mesh deer fencing), as trees grown in tall shelters will not be as strong in the stem as compared to more naturally grown trees.

No liability will be accepted for damage to young trees grown in 1.2m or 1.5m shelters if grown on very windy or on exceptionally fertile sites.

DEER - If high populations of deer, especially Fallow or Red Deer are known to exist, deer fencing should be considered as an alternative to individual protection.

Our shelters will, however, reduce tree damage in the majority of situations.

PLEASE ALSO VIEW THE INSTALLATION VIDEO