

Make a Tree Pit Planter

It can be dry and shady under pavement trees and little or nothing will grow there if soil is compacted. Loosen it with a fork or make a tree pit planter and add peat-free compost or soil. BUT don't pile it against the tree trunk as this could cause damage from damp, fungus or diseases.

Time: build and plant 2 hrs.

Kate Poland, E5 Postcode Gardener



Ashenden Road Tree Pit Planter

What you'll need

- ⊗ Tape measure and pencil
- ⊗ Wooden boards (reclaimed or not)
- ⊗ Ruler/set square and saw
- ⊗ Drill, drill bit and screws
- ⊗ Thin slate or other tile (optional)
- ⊗ Paint (if you want to decorate)
- ⊗ Garden fork or trowel
- ⊗ Soil or compost
- ⊗ Seeds or plants (ideally native)
- ⊗ Water

How to make it

- ① Get boards at least 10cm high so they are not a trip hazard. Measure them to just fit around the pit. Cut to size, drill screw holes at ends and screw together.
- ② Make an inner box out of thin tiles with the edges overlapping to hold in place.
- ③ Be creative - paint or decorate your box for extra interest and colour.
- ④ Add soil or peat-free compost to box height, keeping it away from tree trunk.
- ⑤ Sow seeds and rake over, dig a hole to bed in plants, or leave to self-seed.
- ⑥ Water often until plants are established, particularly during dry weather.



Daubeney Road Tree Pit Planter



Best plants for pollinators

Ground cover: Self-heal, white clover, creeping buttercup, campanula, lobelia, ivy - and catmint for sunny spots.

Small plants: Black horehound, white dead nettle, red dead nettle, marigold, common poppy, hedge woundwort, harebell. Serbian bellflower.

Tall plants: Foxglove in shady spots, fennel and sunflowers in sunny spots.