

*** please read these instructions before unpacking ***



Thank you for purchasing Paulownia Headstarters™ from Toad Gully Growers.

We have prepared this information to help you fully enjoy the beauty and benefits of this wonderful tree. Please read it carefully and contact us with any questions. One of the best aspects of growing Paulownia is they grow almost fast enough to watch, so you are quickly rewarded for your efforts!

To grow Paulownia successfully you need to:

- Avoid planting during periods of extreme temperatures
- Plant only in very free draining soil
- Cultivate the soil well then mound planting lines into high raised beds
- Provide them with weed free conditions – at least for establishment
- Feed them well – to grow fast they have high fertiliser requirements
- Water well during summer but **let soil dry a little before next watering** (30L min per tree to start, later 100L+ but less often)
- If growing for timber they usually require some pruning to obtain clear wood

SPACING:

If you are growing Paulownia for timber it is important they are not over-crowded. The maximum planting density for a clear fell harvest without thinning is 400 trees per hectare (161 per acre). This can be planted 5 x 5m (16ft x 16ft) or 4m (13ft) in row with the rows 6.25m (20ft) apart. The latter will save costs on cultivation, dripper line and maintenance works. If you can afford the space planting them wider is better – the figures given here are the *closest* we suggest you can plant and achieve good results under ideal conditions.

Ornamental planting can be done at various spacing depending on the effect you want. TGG suggest a single row can be planted as close as 2m (7ft) apart if you want a hedging effect or 4 metres (13ft) apart for a more stately look. A double row can be planted 3m (10ft) apart in a zigzag pattern or as wide as 7m (23ft) apart if you want a lot of light distribution through the canopy. Paulownia will not compete well if planted within 12 m (40ft) of a vigorous tree like pine or eucalypt. We do not recommend planting within 6m (20ft) from a structure.

PLEASE FOLLOW THIS STEP BY STEP GUIDE:

1) UNPACKING THE BAGS. The Headstarters™ can be left in the plastic bags in a cool dark place for a matter of only a few days. DO NOT LEAVE IN THE BAGS IN A WARM PLACE as the plants may rot. *They ideally should be unpacked and planted within 48 hours of delivery.*

2) HOLDING BEFORE PLANTING. If you must store them, remove the plants from the plastic bags as soon as possible and immediately place them upright with their roots covered with perlite, potting mix, composted saw dust or similar medium in a SUNNY position and keep them moist BUT NOT WET. Under these conditions they will begin to grow, so should not be held any longer than absolutely necessary as if they become too active before planting they are at a greater risk of transplant shock when planted out and may suffer wind damage if they have tall soft growth

3) PLANTING OUT. Carry the Headstarters in boxes / carry trays in a way that keeps them bunched together and moist, and plant them into well cultivated, friable, moist soil, raised into high mounded beds - at least 60cm (2ft) higher than original soil level. The roots of the Headstarters should not be disturbed. Make sure the general mass of the roots is pointing downwards and the shallowest root is covered by 3cm (1 inch) of soil. Gently firm the soil around the trunk.

4) APPLY FERTILISER. Exact requirements depends on soil type and climate conditions, but as a guide NPK 8 - 11- 10 fertiliser, such as Incitec Pivot Croplift 800 at a rate of 250g (one cup) per tree is a good start. Sprinkle it evenly in a ring around the tree with none closer than 15cm (6") to the trunk (to make sure it doesn't burn). Repeat in 6-8 weeks time. Further application may be needed during the season; the trees should be rich dark green and growth rapid during warm weather.

5) TRUNK REGENERATION. When the weather is warm the trunk will regenerate from the Headstarter stump. (However even if it's warm it generally takes 3 to 6 weeks to sprout, so don't panic.) Often multiple stems sprout from the many reserve buds on Headstarters™; only the strongest one should be allowed to grow. The best shoots usually grow from just below or close to soil level. Wait until the best trunk shoots are at least 20cm (8in) tall, then trim off all but one strong one and also remove any portion of the original trunk above the shoot you have selected. This shoot will then grow more strongly and straight, to become the new trunk. If the Headstarter was planted in spring and given ideal conditions, this shoot may become a 4 metre (14ft) pole by autumn!

6) TIMBER GROWERS SHOULD READ TECHNICAL BULLETIN #1. For full instructions on establishing a plantation. (download from information page on website)

7) PROBLEMS, QUERIES, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS. Contact TGG by Telephone (03) 5983 5688 [international + 61 3 5983 5688] preferably between 8.30am and 5.30pm Australian Eastern Standard Time, Monday to Friday, or any time any day send Fax (03) 5983 1999 [international + 61 3 5983 1999] or email help@toadgully.com.au

This document is intended as a guide only. While all care has been taken in preparing this information, as results will vary according to local conditions and factors outside the author's control, no guarantee is given as to the accuracy of, or consequences of acting upon, any of the above.

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