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Comment from Shoot User

2534 4

Hi I am very new to gardening and my neighbours at the back of us have just got rid of their trees so I need to plant something fast growing for privacy. My garten is aprox 70ft and I want a row of these at the end but am unsure how far from the fence to plant and how deep to plant them.

I want to just see lush green when I look out, not the back of another house so how far apart can these be planted for this sort of effect.

Sorry if I sound dim but I have never planted trees, only potted plants. Believe it or not I am a florist but I have no ideas on trees or large garden plants LOL we have moved to a place where garden has not been touched for 30 odd years so we are starting totally from scratch.

Thanks in advance for reading this and hopefully advising me xx

Posted: Friday 19th of March 2010 10:18 AM

Populus nigra 'Italica'

Shoot User

Hi Jenny,

Populus nigra 'Italica' is a great choice for some attractive, fast growing screening. When growing these as a hedge the general guide is to plant 3-5 per metre. Taking into account the eventual spread of the tree, which is a maximum of around 4.5m, I would plant a good 1-2 metres in from the fence, to avoid too much overhang into the neighbour's garden.

Populus nigra 'Italica' sold for hedging purposes is usually sold in packs of bare root specimens. When planting these it's very important not to plant too deep, as this can leave the plant vulnerable to rotting and disease. In practical terms the best way of doing this is to identify the water mark left on the trunk by the soil before the plant was lifted, and aim to plant at the same level.

MINIMUM PLANTING DISTANCE IS 40 METERS !

You should be aware that the roots of this tree can be fairly invasive, and it is not recommended to plant within about 40 metres of a building, as in some cases they can damage the foundations. You are planting them far enough away from your house for this not to be a problem, but just be aware of it in terms of any built structures that may be in the surrounding gardens.