Bowen (Kensington Pride) mango tree

To successfully plant a Bowen (Kensington Pride) mango tree into the ground, choose a warm, full-sun spot protected from strong winds and plant it during spring.

Choosing the Right Spot

- **Sunlight:** Pick an area that gets at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunshine every day.
- **Shelter:** Shield the young tree from harsh coastal sea breezes and strong winds. Planting near a north-facing brick wall provides helpful warmth during cooler months.
- **Drainage:** Avoid low spots where water pools. Mangoes hate sitting in wet, soggy soil.

Preparing the Soil

- **Broad Improvement:** Clear weeds in a 1-metre circle. Because Perth's sandy soils drain fast and lack nutrients, mix compost broadly across the topsoil rather than heavily amending just the planting hole. Avoid creating a harsh soil contrast that traps roots.
- **Digging the Hole:** Dig a hole twice as wide as the nursery pot and the exact same depth as the root ball.

Planting Steps

1. **Unpot Gently:** Take the tree out of its container very carefully to protect the delicate central taproot from damage.
2. **Position the Tree:** Set the plant in the hole so the top of the root ball sits level with or slightly above the surrounding soil. Keep the graft union clearly above the dirt line to prevent collar rot.
3. **Backfill:** Fill the hole back in with your improved native soil and gently firm it down.
4. **Water Deeply:** Soak the root zone thoroughly right after planting to settle the soil around the roots.
5. **Apply Mulch:** Lay down coarse organic mulch to hold moisture but leave a 10 to 15 cm gap completely clear around the trunk to stop fungal issues.

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