

<p style="text-align: center;">TECHNICAL NOTE □□□□□□ LOOKING AFTER PLANTS IN THE FIRST YEAR</p>

Ensuring that the plants are in good health during the year after planting guarantees the trees' proper development in the years that follow.

I – SOIL MAINTENANCE

- * **Between the rows:** it is best to use a tool with teeth (cultivator or vibra shank cultivator).
- * **For the rows:**

- ① remove weeds manually from near the plant;
- ② chemical weed control possible around the plant with Basta 2 %, making sure to protect the plant from splashing;
- ③ gentle hoeing to break the surface of the soil laid bare by the action of the herbicide will reduce evaporation (see below).

II - WATERING

The following elements must be taken into account when watering:

- **The species of the plant:** the oak has a revolving system of roots and is less sensitive to dry conditions than the hazel.
- **The mushroom's needs:** the truffle is xerothermic: it is a mushroom that thrives in dryness and heat, so too much water is more harmful than a lack of water. The objective is to maintain coolness around the root ball without adding too much water.
- **Outside temperature:** do not water during period of frost as there is the risk of ice forming around the plant and the root ball, which would be dangerous for the young plant.
- **The plant's stage of vegetation:**

* during the plant's winter rest period, it has no need of water:

☞ after planting, the purpose of watering is to replace the soil and remove any pockets of air around the root ball: 3 litres of water per plant is enough;

* at the beginning of the plant's growth in spring, the plant needs water from April for late plantings: 3 to 5 litres of water per plant could be necessary; this watering should be more or less frequent, depending on:

*** the type of soil:**

For a filtering, sandy soil ☞ water every 10 days during summer.

For claylike soil ☞ water every 15 days.

* **rainfall:** a rain gauge will measure rainfall precisely: take no notice of isolated rainfall of less than 5mm; consider the amount of rainfall (at least 10mm) every 10 days or twice a month, whether it is from one downpour or several. 10mm on the rain gauge represents 10 litres of water per plant.

* **cultivation:** one hoeing is worth two waterings. By contrast, too much grass or weeds at the foot of the plant will quickly dry the soil.

***Note:** mulching (on 1m²) with flat stones, or degraded straw, or black plastic allows the soil to retain water.*