

Vigilis-Bio Mesh Guard: Installation Guide

Before you start

- You supply, per guard: one anchor stake and two canes, each at least 30 cm longer than the guard. Vigilis does not supply them, and their length, section and condition are the installer's responsibility.
- Do not install on a site with known vole pressure. The mesh is 12 × 12 mm and does not exclude voles. Such a site needs a solid-walled Vigilis shelter or Vigilis Voleguard.
- Do not install in exposed places with high winds, on slopes steeper than 7°, on roadsides, or where herbicides or pesticides are applied. Each of these is outside the design envelope.
- Guards stored in the open on site or in direct sunlight before installation are excluded from any claim.

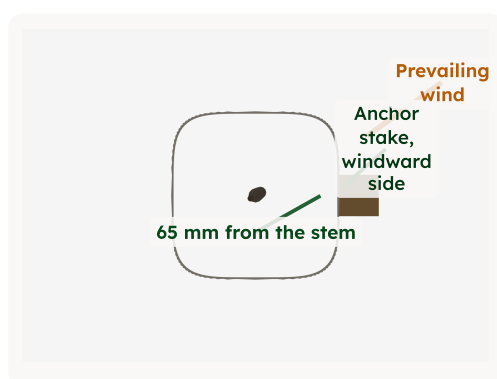
The eight steps

1. **Clear the ground.** A circle at least 1 m across, cleared of all vegetation, and kept clear for 3 years. Voles will not cross bare ground.

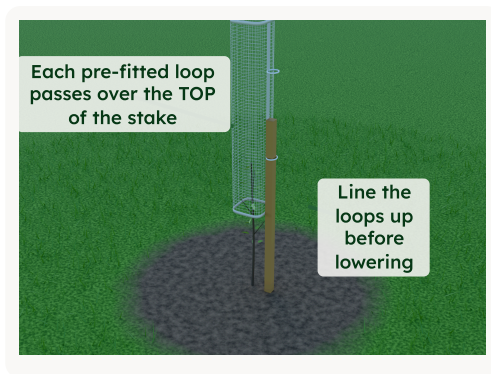
2. **Plant.** Notch plant, roots down, root collar at soil level. Firm with the heel.

3. **Open the guard.** Press the two folds outward and roll the guard between your hands until it opens to a round section of 130 mm. Do this before it goes anywhere near the plant: a half-opened guard scrapes the leader on the way down.

4. **Position and drive the anchor stake.** 65 mm from the stem, which is half the opened diameter, so the plant ends up centred. Put it on the **windward side**: light mesh twists round its stake in the wind, and a twisted mesh wrenches the stem. Drive it vertical, at least 30 cm in. The top must be level with or just above the top of the guard.



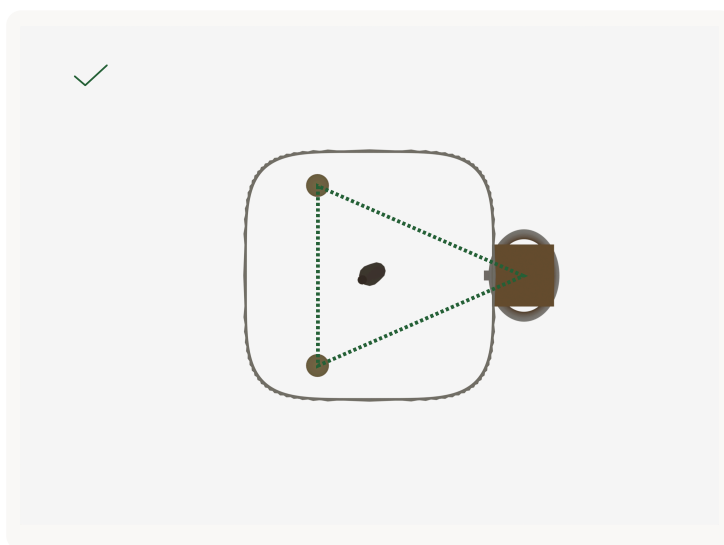
5. **Lower the guard over the stake.** The pre-fitted BioTies are closed loops and cannot be released, so the stake has to pass through them. Gather the branches in one hand. Lift the open guard above the top of the stake, ties on the stake side, and line each loop up over the stake top. Lower the guard over plant and stake together. If a loop has missed, lift the guard clear and lower it again. Do not cut the tie.



6. Seat the base. Push the guard 10 to 20 mm into the soil all the way round. Rodents get under a base that is not in contact with the ground.

7. Pull the BioTies tight. Snug, so the guard cannot lift or rotate; not so tight that it pinches the mesh flat against the stake. **A tie cannot be loosened once it has been tightened**, so stop as soon as the guard is held. The 60 cm guard carries 1 tie; every other height carries 2. The ties hold the guard to the anchor stake only, never to the canes.

8. Set the two canes inside: the triangle. Push two canes down inside the mesh to 30 cm, so that the anchor stake and the two canes are evenly spaced around the guard, each about a third of the way round from the next, with the plant in the middle. The canes carry no tie; the mesh rests against them and cannot fall inward. **The fold lines are packing creases and are not where the canes go:** position the canes by the stake, not by the folds.



Check before you move on

Guard upright and seated. Tied to the anchor stake. Two canes inside. Section open and roughly triangular. Stake to the top of the guard. Plant centred, with daylight between the stem and the mesh on every side. No shoots through the mesh. Push the top of the guard sideways: it should spring back, and the base should not lift.