



Contact your local conservation district for Tree Sale information or for assistance with planting, and tree health.

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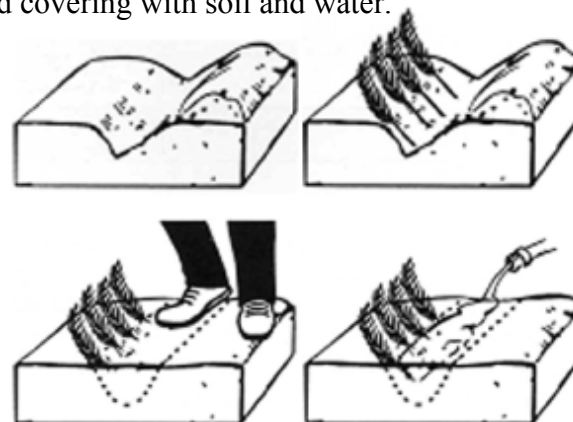
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Planting Guide for Seedlings and Shrubs

Keep Seedling Moist and Protected!

- Keep roots wrapped and moist in a cool, moist, shaded place.
- Seedlings can be stored for up to 48 hours before planting.
- Heel in plants if unable to plant within 48 hours by digging a trench, unbundling seedlings, spacing them within the trench, and covering with soil and water.



Selecting the Proper Plants, Sites, and Tools

Tools: Planting bars or “dibbles” are the most efficient way to plant seedlings, although shovels can also be used. Large scale plantings can be done through the use of a planting machine or hiring a planting crew. Contact your conservation district for information on where to rent equipment or hire planters.

Plants: Choose the correct plant to fit your site characteristics. Consider soil texture and drainage, sun availability, competing vegetation, and also your goals for the planting.

Site: Be aware of overhead and underground wires and septic tanks when planting. Plant at least 20ft from utility lines and 10ft from any structure.



Preparing your Planting Site

Competition from other vegetation may stress seedlings, cause lack of vigor and increase susceptibility to pests and diseases.

Small sites: Use a shovel to “scalp” or removed the top 2 inches of surface and loosen underlying ground.

Large sites: Clear large areas using techniques such as tilling, furrowing, herbicides, or using professional crews. Avoid chemicals with extended release to avoid hard to new plants.

DO NOT FERTILIZE the entire first year of planting. It is critical that bareroot seedlings establish strong root systems in the first year. Nitrogen in fertilizer will inhibit this process by encouraging above-ground growth instead of below.

Planting Steps

Step 1: Plant on a calm, cloudy day. Plant conifers early in the morning. Put off planting until risk of freezing has passed.

Step 2: Keep seedling wrapped and moist until just before placing in ground.

Step 3: Dig a hole about 2 times the width of the seedling and scarcely deeper than the root system.

Step 4: Hold seedling vertically, allowing roots to hang in hole. If roots are excessively long, bunched or bent, dig hole slightly deeper or use scissors to prune roots back up to 8 inches.

Step 5: Check root placement to ensure roots are not bent or crushed. Pack soil around seedling to remove large air pockets, but not extremely compressed.

Step 6: Water until soil is well saturated and muddy. If settling occurs, add more soil and water. Tug gently upwards to ensure seedling is secure.

Step 7: Provide tree protection with trunk wraps or tree shelters which will help keep the tree safe from extreme weather and animal damage. Mulch can be applied no more than 2 inches thick around the seedling, but not touching the stem. Mulch will help insulate roots, retain moisture, and reduce competition from other vegetation. Tree mats are another alternative to mulch.

Step 8: Monitoring and maintenance is vital to a plants success. Ensuring a favorable growing environment requires care the first 1 to 3 years after planting. Keep the area free of weeds/grasses and water regularly. Weekly or biweekly watering may be needed in times of drought. Be aware of plant progress throughout the season and be proactive of potential problems.

