



## **TREE PLANTING INFORMATION**

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# Planting Your Tree Seedlings

## Tips and Guidelines

### **Handling Seedlings:**

Seedlings are living and must be handled carefully. For the highest survival rate, treat trees carefully and plant them immediately. If planting must be delayed a few days, keep the plants in a cool, protected place and keep moist until planted.

### **Site Preparation:**

As trees grow they must compete with other vegetation for light, water, nutrients and space. In preparing the ground, you may need to eliminate or reduce undesirable growth. Clear at least a three-foot square bare spot before planting.

### **Planting:**

Carry seedlings in a pail or planting bag lined with wet burlap, peat moss or similar moist material. Remove one seedling at a time from the planting container, and be careful not to touch roots.

Plant seedlings at the same depth that they grew in the nursery. Look at the stem of the seedling to determine the soil level from the nursery. There will be a color change on the stem. Do not bury foliage or leave roots curled back or exposed to the air.

Pack soil firmly around the entire root system, leaving no air pockets. If air pockets occur, the roots can dry out, killing the seedling.

Over watering is a common problem for irrigated seedlings. You probably won't need to water more frequently than every 7 to 10 days. Give your trees a thorough, deep soak and then let the soil dry out before the next watering. This encourages the roots to grow down in search of water. Frequent, shallow watering encourages root growth near the surface and the trees are more dependent on irrigation and are less wind firm.

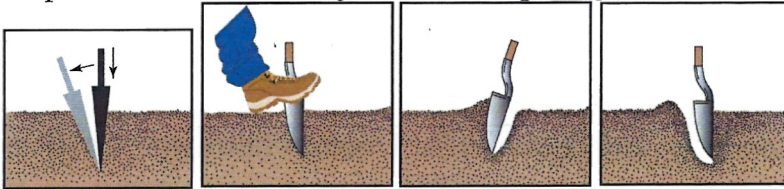
## 7 Steps in Tree Planting:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/media/wysiwyg/Extensiondata/Pub/pdf/agguides/forestry/g05008.pdf>

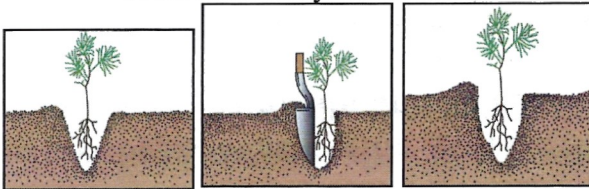
Step 1. Insert dibble bar, shovel or planting stick

Step 2. Loosen soil

Step 3. Pull hoe toward you to make opening



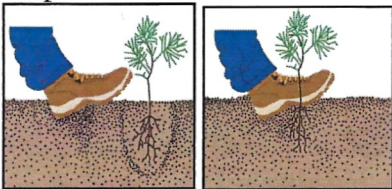
Step 4. Insert tree, making sure the hole is deep enough for the roots to be fully extended.



Step 5. Cover roots, allowing soil to fall in around the roots. Tamp with hands or with your heel. Fill with more soil if necessary and tamp.

Step 6. Cover to base (see paragraph 2 under Planting).

Step 7. Pack soil



## **Tree Storage**

**Optimum temperature for tree storage is 33° which is the temperature of your refrigerator.**

**If you have room in your refrigerator, it is the perfect place to store the seedlings until they can be planted. Keep them in the plastic bags they came in, then put them in a black plastic bag to keep out the light.**

**If you have a large number of trees, store them in the boxes they came in on the north side of a building. Cover them with snow to insulate them and keep them at an even temperature – around 33°.**

**The optimum temperature of the ground for the trees to start growing is 40°. You can plant them before then – our ground under the snow is not frozen – but they won't start growing until the ground is warm enough.**