

Tree Planting Basics

Site Selection

Consider the plant's characteristics:

Do they need shade, full sun, dry or moist soil? How tall will it grow and how wide?

Consider what existing natural or man-made features are on your site which may influence what trees and shrubs you plant and where.

Avoid the following:

- Planting shade intolerant trees under mature trees.
- Planting on septic drain fields.
- Planting trees within 10-12' of overhead wires.
- Planting trees within 10-12' of buildings.
- Planting evergreens where they may obstruct vision near roads.
- Planting salt intolerant plants next to roadways.

Site Preparation

Weed control is important to improve the survival and growth of newly planted trees and shrubs. Research has shown that the leading cause of seedling mortality most years is due to lack of proper weed control. When weeds are present, tree seedlings cannot compete against the more successful grasses and broad-leafed weeds.

New herbicides on the market today take much of the guesswork out of weed control. Pre-emergent herbicides (those that are applied before weeds emerge in the spring) and post-emergent herbicides (those that are applied after the weeds emerge) often do a superior job of controlling weeds around newly planted seedlings over the traditional sod scalping or furrowing method done with a shovel or a plow.

The key to effective weed control with herbicides is to apply the herbicide one season in advance. This is best done in the late summer or early fall when grasses and other weeds are beginning to store food in their roots. Herbicides are quickly translocated to the roots at this time of the year making herbicides more effective and thorough in their control of weeds.

Planting

Trees may be planted with a tree planting machine or by hand using a planting bar, shovel, or other tool. Plant trees in the middle of the prepared site area to ensure maximum distance from competing vegetation. Dig a hole wide enough to permit tree roots to spread out in a natural uncurled position. Roots can be pruned to 8-12", depending on the size of the trees, to accommodate this. Firmly pack soil around roots to eliminate air pockets.

Plant trees as soon as possible after pick-up. Plant one tree at a time, keeping roots of trees yet to be planted covered so they do not dry out.

Small seedlings can also be planted in a nursery bed, 12' apart, until they increase in size and can be transplanted.

Spacing Guide

<u>Intended Use</u>	<u>Type of Trees</u>	<u>Spacing</u>	<u>Quantity to Order</u>
Windbreaks	Pines/Spruces	7' x 10'	15 trees/ 100'
Windbreaks	Shrubs	6' x 10'	17 trees/100'
Christmas Trees	All Types	6' x 6'	1210/acre
Reforestation/Erosion Control	Red Pine	6' x 8'	908/acre
Reforestation/Erosion Control	Spruces/Firs	6' x 8'	908/acre
Reforestation/Erosion Control	Hardwoods	10' x 10'	435/acre
Apple Trees	All Types	20' x 20'	109/acre