



Seedling Care and Handling

Before planting

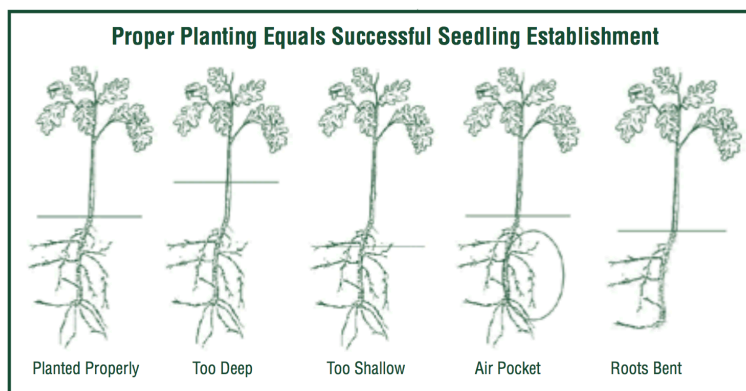
Your trees are alive but dormant. Reaching temps of 45 degrees breaks dormancy.

- Bare-root seedlings are perishable and require careful handling to prevent the roots from drying out.
- Plant seedlings as soon as possible (within a few days).
- If not planted immediately, place them in a cold area and protect them from drying out and freezing. Storage in a barn or shed with protection from the sun, wind, and extreme temperatures are adequate for only a few days.
- Keep roots moist but not soaking wet.

Planting

Proper care and handling of bare-root seedlings during the planting process is critical to seedling survival.

- Protect roots from drying out at all times. Even brief exposure of the roots to direct sunlight and wind can cause roots to dry out.
- The hole or furrow should be slightly deeper and twice as wide as root depth.
- Plant the seedling at ground level with the root collar just at the soil surface.
- Make sure the roots have room in the hole. Do not twist or bend roots like a “J”.
- DO NOT add soil amendments or fertilizers.
- Firmly pack the soil around the seedling roots avoiding air pockets.
- Water the tree.



Mulching

- Mulch 2-3 inches around the tree
- DO NOT let the mulch touch the base of the tree trunk. Volcano mulching kills trees.

Watering

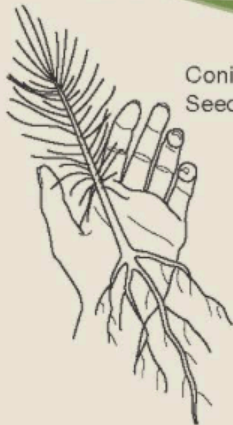
- Keep trees watered during the first year.
- Keep the soil and mulch moist but not soggy.
- Avoid watering so much that you see standing water.



TREES KNOXVILLE

Planting trees. Growing community.

How to Plant a Bareroot Seedling



Coniferous
Seedling



Deciduous
Seedling

- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.

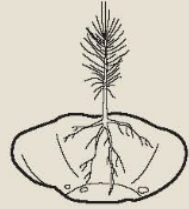
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.

- 3 If hole cannot be dug deep enough to fit entire root system, trim roots with scissors to same length as seedling's above ground height or 8 inches, whichever is longer.



Cut only if needed.

- 4 Place roots in hole so top of first root is slightly below surface level.



- 5 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



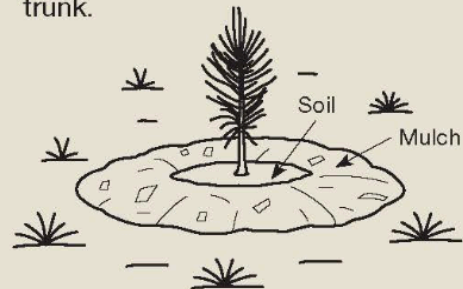
Don't create a "J" root.

- 6 Backfill hole to slightly above top of first root.

- 7 Heel in soil with foot to remove air pockets.

- 8 Water entire backfill area.

- 9 When feasible, place mulch around seedling, keeping mulch away from trunk.



Don't create a mulch volcano.



More Information and a video tutorial at <http://www.treesknoxville.org/links>