

Seedling Care and Handling

Before planting

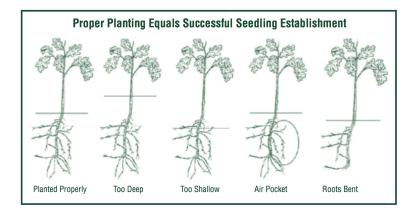
Your trees are alive but dormant. Reaching temps of 45 degrees breaks dormancy.

- 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.



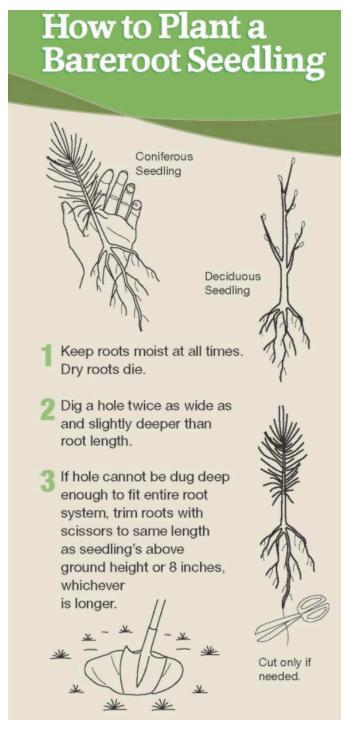
Mulching

- 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.





Place roots in hole so top of first root is slightly below surface level. Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted. Don't create a "J" root Backfill hole to slightly above top of first root. Heel in soil with foot to remove air pockets. Water entire backfill area. When feasible, place mulch around seedling, keeping mulch away from trunk. Mulch Don't create a mulch volcano.