



Care, Planting and Maintenance of Seedlings

Follow these keys to success with your new seedlings and transplants

1) **Keep roots cool and damp at all times.**

Your trees have been treated with a special gel that absorbs and retains moisture. If plants are kept cool and moist and planted within a few days, no further treatment is necessary before planting. Monitor tree bags to make sure they stay moist inside. Add water if necessary or wrap in moist straw or sawdust. Any sorting and separating should be done in a shady place protected from the wind to prevent root injury.

2) **Pick the right location and spacing.**

Plan your layout beforehand. Each tree and shrub species is adapted to different site conditions such as soil, drainage, pH and light. Know the conditions best for your trees and plant accordingly. Choose a location 15 to 20 feet from the house, sidewalk, driveway and other trees. Steer clear of overhead power lines. If possible, do not plant in straight rows. A much more natural appearance is accomplished with an irregular pattern.

3) **Plant as soon as possible.**

The sooner you plant your trees the better their chances will be for survival.

4) **Plant to the right depth.**

Your trees should be planted at the same depth or up to one-half inch deeper than they grew in the nursery. The old soil line can be recognized by the paler colored bark on the stem and also a slight bump or swelling at this point.

5) **Give the roots space.**

The planting hole or slit should be deep and wide enough to prevent curling or bunching up of the roots. The soil must be firmly packed around the roots after planting. Special care should be taken to close the bottom of the hole as well as the top.



If water is accessible, fill hole with water while back-filling the hole.

6) **Mulch.**

Place a ring of wood mulch or a tree mat around the base of your trees. This will reduce weed completion and preserve moisture.

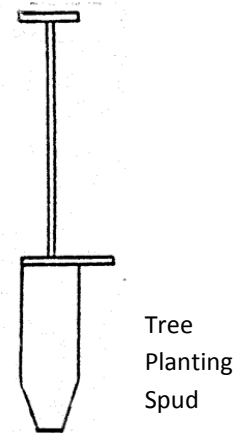
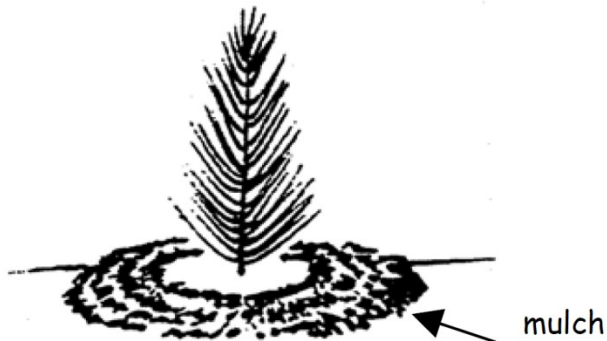
7) **Water**

One of the most important steps you can take to help your seedlings survive their first year is to make sure the roots stay moist. Water immediately after planting, then check them weekly. Water by hand once per week if it rains less than an inch.

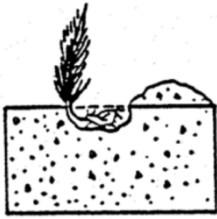


Seedling Maintenance

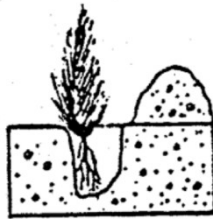
- 1) Remember, one of the most important things you can do to help ensure the survival of your seedlings during their first year is to make sure the roots stay moist. Check them weekly, and water by hand if Mother Nature is not providing sufficient rain.
- 2) Once a plant has been successfully established it should also be protected from grazing, fire, insects and disease. Grazing by wildlife and/or domestic animals is very detrimental to the plant. You can prevent damage by domestic animal by simply installing a fence that keeps animals off the root zone of the plant. (The root zone is roughly equal to the distance from the main stem or trunk to the farthest reaching branches.) To protect trees from wildlife damage, place a cylinder of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth around the trunk, leaving two to three inches between the wire and the trunk. Or, use specially designed "tree tubes" available from forestry supply companies.
- 3) Check periodically for signs of insects or diseases attacking the plants. If any signs are apparent, samples of the damage or the fact that such a condition exists can be brought to the county forester, master gardener or other professional for advice. You can minimize disease and other stresses by making sure to plant the tree in the right location.
- 4) On sites where the plants are in danger of becoming smothered with competing grass or brush, plans should be made at the time of planting to control them. Prevent weed competition early by using tree mats. If weeds become a problem, you may wish to cultivate the entire area, or use a spray. Selective herbicides have been developed and may be used to control unwanted vegetation around the plants. If heavy brush comes in after planting you may have to keep it cut back until the plants are well established, but be careful not to damage the young tree bark.
- 5) After the plants have been planted for a year or two, a survival count should be made. If the survival falls below 65 to 70 percent, consider replanting where trees have died.



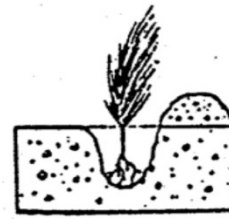
Seedling Depth and Closure



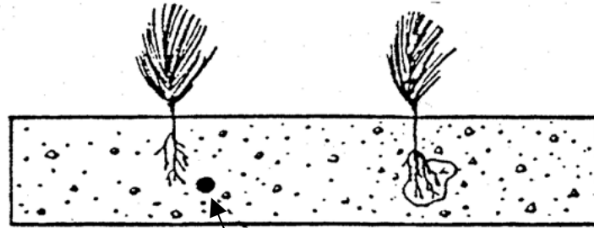
Too Shallow



Too Deep



Correct

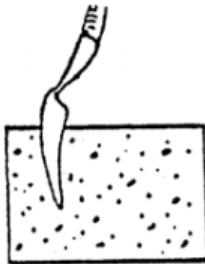


Correct - No air pocket

Incorrect - Air pockets cause roots to dry out

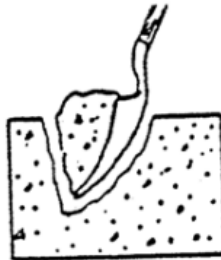
Planting With a Shovel

1.



Place shovel with concave side facing you; push straight into the ground.

2.



With shovel in normal position and at 30 degrees to ground; push shovel in to intersect first cut.

3.



Push down on handle 4 inches to break slice; pull out on shovel with soil in one piece.

4.



Hold plant against straight side of slice: roots should not double up.

5.



Slide slice back in place. Do not backfill with sod chunks.

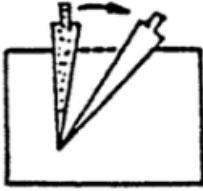
6.



Pack thoroughly with heel.

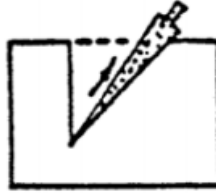
Planting With A Spud

1.



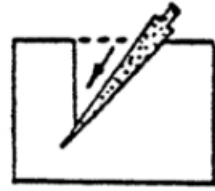
Insert spud straight down and push forward to an angle of about 30 degrees

2.



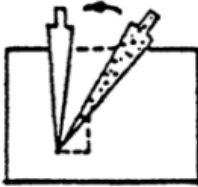
Lift spud slightly in the same plane.

3.



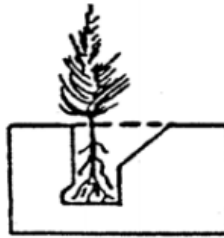
Push spud down at same angle in order to obtain a new "bite".

4.



Pull spud toward you until it is straight up; this will give you a hole that is wide at the bottom.

5.



Set plant at correct depth and remove spud.

6.



Insert spud about two inches from hole.

7.



Pull handle back slightly to close bottom of hole.

8.



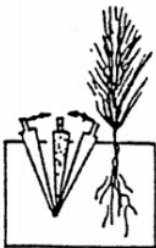
Push handle forward to close top of hole.

9.



Insert spud two inches from last hole.

10.



Push forward and then backward filling hole.

11.



Fill in last hole by stamping with heel.

Note: For best results hold plant to side of hole and allow dirt to flow by it when hole is being closed. Avoid wiggling spud back and forth as this will result in an hourglass shaped hole which is difficult to close. Pushing spud too far forward or pulling it too far back will loosen soil around hole and make setting of plant difficult.