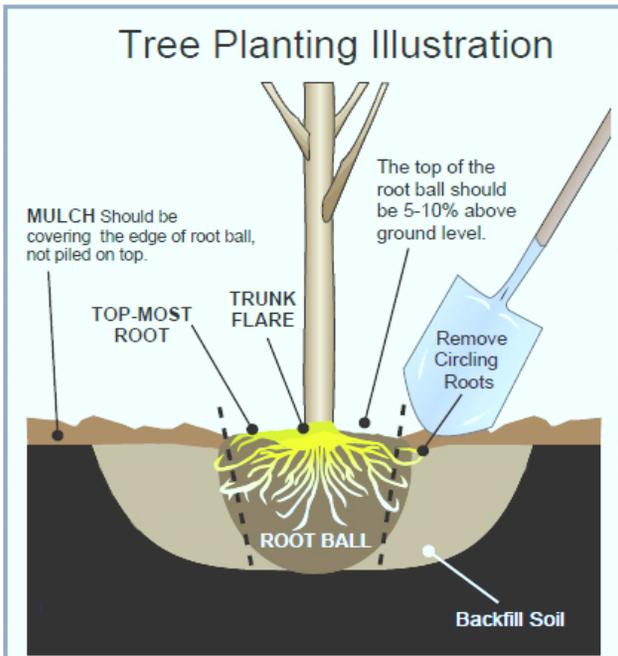


PLANTING YOUR TREE



When planting seedlings, tree roots must be kept moist, but not submerged in water. Do not allow roots to be exposed to wind or direct sun for any length of time.

Spacing: Rows should be spaced 12-24 feet apart, depending on the species and width of the equipment used when mowing. Ex: **Cedar trees:** 10-14' apart, **Pine trees:** 10-18' apart, **Hardwoods:** 12-16' apart, and **Shrubs:** 4' apart.

Steps to Properly Plant Your Trees:

1. **Dig a shallow, wide planting hole** about 3 times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the root ball.
2. **Identify the trunk flare** and make sure it's visible after the tree has been planted. The majority of the roots will develop in the top 12" of soil, so it's better to plant the tree a little high than below growing level.
3. **Straighten tree in the hole.** Be sure to plant the tree straight to ensure that it grow properly.
4. **Fill hole gently but firmly.** Fill the hole about 1/3 full and firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Shave off the periphery of the root ball to remove circling roots.

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Tree Planting Guide



Since 1972, the NRD has sold over 3 million trees for conservation from Gothenburg to Columbus.

We've also provided 520 miles of fabric mulch to provide long-lasting protection against weeds and to keep moisture in the soil during dry conditions.

CPNRD

CENTRAL PLATTE
NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

(308) 385-6282 www.cpnrd.org
215 Kaufman Ave Grand Island NE

Protecting Lives Protecting Property
Protecting the Future

STORAGE

Trees should be planted immediately, however, if you are unable to plant your trees right away, be sure to store the seedlings properly. Cold storage is the best way to hold trees (frost free— from 36° to 38° F.)

Storing for a few days: If cold storage isn't available, keep in a cool place such as a basement in the moist packing material. Packing material must be kept moist, but roots should not be submerged in water.

Storing for a few weeks: If trees are to be held for a longer period, place them in a shaded, sloping trench. A 2' trench will hold about 250 seedlings. Be sure the roots aren't crowded and cut strings on bundles. Cover the roots with soil and pack firmly. Avoid air pockets and keep soil moist.

WHERE TO PLANT

Some trees, depending on the species, can suffer from too much shade. Simply put, many conifers and hardwood trees have to be in full sunlight most of the day to survive. These trees are what foresters and botanists call "shade intolerant". Trees that can take shade are shade tolerant.

Tree species that cannot tolerate shade well are: pine, many oaks, poplar, black cherry and cottonwood. Trees that can take shade are spruce, most birch and elm, and dogwood.

SITE PREPARATION

The area to be planted should be prepared as if a garden or field crop were being planted. Plowing and then disking or roto-tilling the ground will establish an excellent seed bed. Survival of your trees greatly depends on excellent ground preparation. Autumn is the best time to begin preparing the soil for tree planting because the winter weather allows the soil to mellow.

Request the NRD's Ground Preparation brochure for details on how to best prepare for seedling plantings.

WATERING

Watering during the hot, dry summer months is no doubt the single most important element to help minimize stress.

Ideally, newly planted trees should receive about an inch of water per week (one gallon) from rain or irrigation. Small frequent watering supplied by lawn sprinklers are not beneficial to tree roots. Give your trees a good soaking each time you water and then allow the planting site to dry before watering again.

You don't need to water as much as you may believe necessary. When you water too often, the roots grow shallowly and the tree won't do as well in times of drought. The tree will also not be as sturdy and able to resist strong winds.



When you water deeply every 7-10 days and let the ground dry out before the next watering, the roots will grow farther down and will later have an easier time finding water if needed.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

When trees are transplanted, they go through a period of shock. During this time the tree is expending a majority of its energy in developing its root system. Don't panic. The tops of trees may turn brown but the root system may still be alive and may regain a healthy appearance in the fall.

The first few years are especially critical for establishing a healthy tree. Watch for signs of poor health such as:

- Yellow leaves
- Wilting foliage
- Holes in bark, branches, or leaves
- Oozing sap



If you see these indications of poor health, take steps to remedy the problem as soon as you can. Contact your local extension office if you need help in diagnosing what is wrong.

MULCHING

Mulching eliminates potential competition. Applying a maximum of 2"-3" of loosely packed organic material such as wood chips, pine straw, peat moss, shredded leaves or grass clippings are adequate mulch layers.

Mulching helps to:

- retain soil moisture
- reduce weeds and controls grass
- increases natural soil fertility as mulch decomposes
- improves soil structure, aeration and temperature
- protects trunk from injuries caused by mowing equipment and trimmers

NOTE: *Mulching is a great practice but it can also be over done. Mulch around the base of a tree that is over 3" deep can be too much to the point of effecting root and bark function. Also avoid mulching right next to the base of the tree trunk.*

FABRIC MULCH

Fabric mulch weed barrier is a black permeable fabric that controls weeds and also conserves soil moisture. It is a durable polypropylene woven fabric (texture like burlap). The fabric works by eliminating weeds and grasses while allowing water to penetrate it. Sunlight cannot penetrate it, so weeds won't grow through it. Once the weed barrier is in place, the maintenance is minimal.

The fabric mulch weed barrier can be purchased and installed by the Central Platte NRD.

FERTILIZATION

Newly planted trees should be fertilized only if they exhibit signs of nutrient deficiency.

Applying a general slow-release fertilizer when new growth begins in the spring may be beneficial. Then in the following growing season, feed 2 lbs. of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet of trees. For mature trees, measure their trunk diameter and give them 2 pounds of fertilizer per inch as new growth starts after each dormancy.