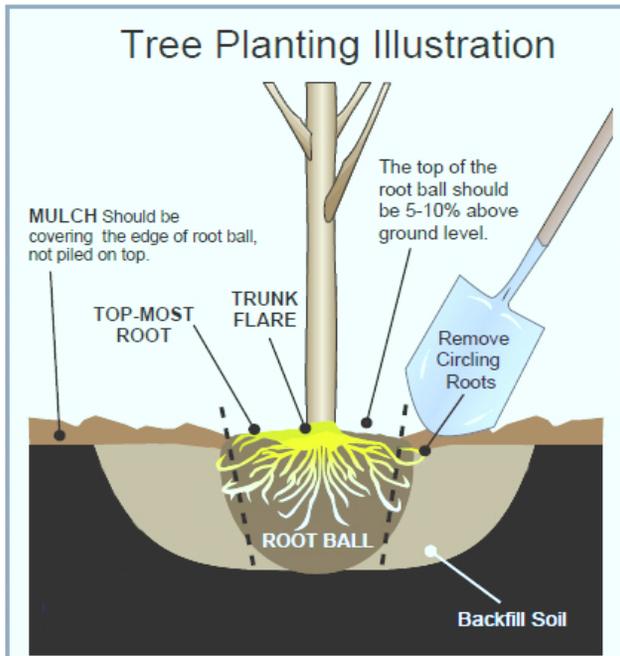


PLANTING YOUR TREE



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.

Spacing: Space rows 12'-24' apart, depending on the species & width of the equipment used when mowing.

Steps to Properly Plant Your Trees:

1. **Dig Hole** about 3x the diameter of the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball.
2. **Identify Trunk Flare** Make sure flare is 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** Be sure to plant the tree straight to ensure that it grows properly.
4. **Fill Hole** Fill the hole about 1/3 full and firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Shave off periphery of the root ball to remove circling roots.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

Kelly Cole, Programs Coordinator

Tel: (308) 385-6282

Email: cole@cpnrd.org

USDA NRCS Offices (Ext 3)

Lexington (308) 324-6314

Kearney (308) 237-3118

Osceola (402) 747-2461

Central City (308) 946-2251

Grand Island (308) 382-0814



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, nation origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or family status. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250, or call (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

Tree Planting Guide



Since 1972, the NRD has sold over 3.7 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 right away, be sure to store the seedlings properly. Cold storage (refrigerator) is the best way to hold trees (36°- 38° F).

Storing for a few days: If cold storage isn't available, keep trees in a cool place such as a basement for a few days. Leave in packing material and keep moist, but don't submerge roots 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 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." Some intolerant species include: pine, many oaks, poplar, black cherry, & cottonwood. Trees that do well with shade are: spruce, most birch, elm, & dogwood.

SITE PREPARATION

Prepare the area where trees are to be planted the same as a garden or field crop. Plowing and disking or roto-tilling the ground will establish an excellent seed bed. Tree survival greatly depends on how well you prepare the ground. Autumn is the best time to begin preparing the soil for tree planting because the winter weather allows soil to mellow.

Request CPNRD'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 in helping to minimize stress. Ideally, newly planted trees should receive about 1" of water per week (1 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 won't need to water as much as you may believe necessary. When you water too often, roots grow shallow making the tree vulnerable in times of drought. It won't be as sturdy or able to resist strong winds.

When you water deeply every 7-10 days and let the ground dry out before the next watering, roots 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 expends its energy developing its root system. Don't panic. Even if the tops of trees turn brown; its likely the root system is alive and will regain a healthy appearance in the fall.

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

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



If you see these symptoms, 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 from grass and weeds. 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
- increase natural soil fertility
- improve soil structure, aeration, & temperature
- protect trunk from external injuries caused by mowing equipment & trimmers

NOTE: Mulch around the base of a tree over 3" deep can negatively affect root & bark function. Avoid mulching against the base of the trunk.

FABRIC MULCH

Fabric weed barrier is a black permeable fabric that controls weeds and conserves soil moisture. Made of durable polypropylene woven fabric, it works by eliminating weeds and grasses while allowing water to penetrate it. Sunlight can't penetrate it, so weeds won't grow through it. Maintenance is minimal.

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. Apply a general slow-release fertilizer when new growth begins in the spring. In the following growing season, apply 2 pounds of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet of trees.

For mature trees, measure their trunk diameter and apply 2 pounds of fertilizer per inch as new growth starts after each dormancy.