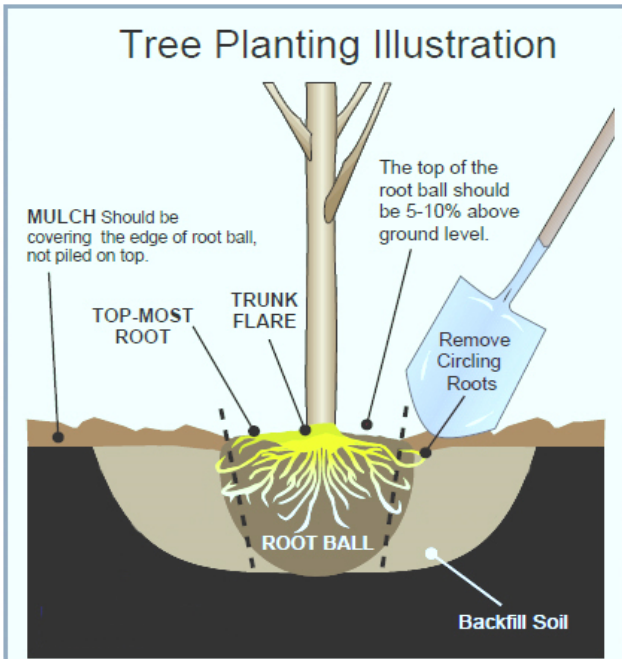


PLANTING YOUR TREE



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 tree specie and width of the equipment used when mowing.

Steps to Properly Plant Your Trees:

1. **Dig Hole** about 3 times 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 the tree base is straight to ensure that it grows properly.
4. **Fill Hole** Fill hole 1/3 full and firmly pack soil around the base of the root ball. Continue to fill until roots are covered.

CENTRAL PLATTE NRD

(308) 385-6282

USDA NRCS Offices (Ext 3)

Lexington (308) 324-6314

Kearney (308) 237-3118

Osceola (402) 747-2461

Central City (308) 946-3035

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Tree Planting Guide



*Central Platte NRD has sold over
3.8 million trees for conservation
599 miles of weed barrier from
Gothenburg to Columbus since 1972.*



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

Protecting Lives Protecting Property
Protecting the Future

STORAGE

Trees should be planted immediately. If you are unable to plant right away, be sure to store the seedlings in cold storage. A 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 - do not 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. Many conifers and deciduous trees need full sunlight most of the day to survive; also known as shade intolerant. Shade tolerant species include: spruce, most birch, elm and dogwood. Some intolerant species are: pine, many oaks, poplar, black cherry and cottonwood.

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

SITE PREPARATION

Prepare the area where trees are to be planted the same as a garden. Plowing, disking or rototilling 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 winter weather allows soil to mellow.

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). 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 site to dry before watering again.

When watered too often, roots grow shallow making trees vulnerable in times of drought. The trees won't be as sturdy or able to resist strong winds.



Water deeply every 7-10 days and let the ground dry out before next watering to allow roots to grow farther down.

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; it's 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. Contact your local extension office if you need help 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 and reduce weeds
- increase natural soil fertility
- improve soil structure, aeration, temperature
- protects trunk from external injuries caused by mowing equipment and trimmers

NOTE: 3" of mulch or more around the base of a tree can negatively affect root and bark function. Avoid mulching directly against base of the trunk.

FABRIC MULCH

CPNRD recommends fabric weed barrier made of durable polypropylene woven fabric. The fabric eliminates vegetative competition with newly planted trees and shrubs by acting as a mulch.

Soil moisture is conserved by reduction of evaporation. Water is able to penetrate the fabric, but sunlight cannot, so vegetation will not grow through it.

Tree and shrub survival is increased with fabric mulch. It provides effective control of weeds and grasses.

Weed barrier can be purchased from and installed by the Central Platte NRD.



To learn more call (308) 385-6282 or visit: cpnrd.org