

Planting a Tree Seedling with Shovel or Planting Bar

Planting with a Shovel

TOOLS



Shovel



Gloves

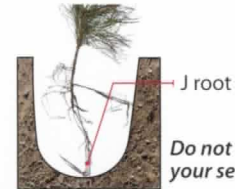
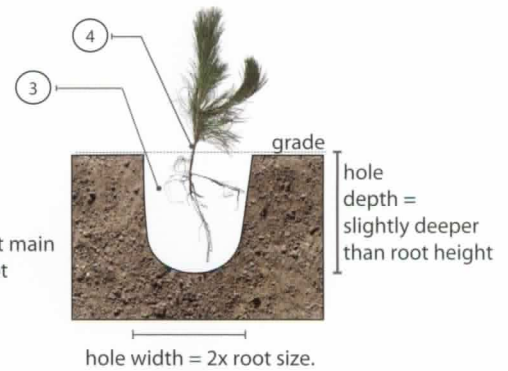
- 1 Contact Gopher State One-Call at 800-252-1166 before digging.
- 2 Brush aside loose organic material such as leaves and grass to expose soil.
- 3 Dig a hole twice as wide as the size of the roots and slightly deeper.
- 4 Place seedling in the hole. Make sure the first main root is slightly below the soil surface. Distribute the roots evenly, making sure the taproot is straight down. Avoid making a "J" root.
- 5 Pack the soil firmly around the roots. Make sure there are no air pockets.



first main root



NOTE: Keep seedlings in a cool, shaded, and protected place and keep roots damp until planting.



Do not "J" root your seedlings.

Planting with a Planting Bar

TOOLS



Planting Bars

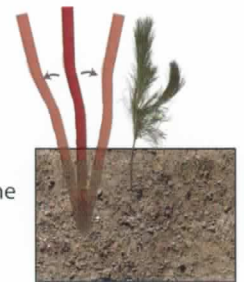


Gloves

- 1 Follow steps one and two from above.
- 2 Drive blade into soil; move it back and forth to form a V-shaped hole. Make sure hole is deep enough for the roots to be fully extended. Avoid making a "J" root. (See "J" root image above.)
- 3 Insert seedling into hole. Set seedling vertically with first main root slightly below soil surface.



- 4 Insert the bar into the soil 2 inches away from the planting hole. Pull the handle toward you, firming the soil at the bottom of the planting hole. This is important to prevent air pockets at the bottom of the hole.



- 5 Push handle toward seedling to firm soil at the top of planting hole.
- 6 Remove the bar and firmly pack the soil around seedling with your heel.



Mulching and Watering

TOOLS

Mulch



Watering Bucket



Hose

- 1 Water seedling well after planting and then a good soaking once a week.
- 2 Mulch around the seedling, keeping mulch 2-3" away from trunk.



- 3 Protect your seedling from lawn mowers and deer browsing by adding a cage or netting.



Note: Watering, mulching, and protecting trees may not be feasible for a large scale planting project.

Note: Check periodically to make sure that brush, grass and other vegetation is kept under control by mowing, mulching, spraying or a combination of these treatments.

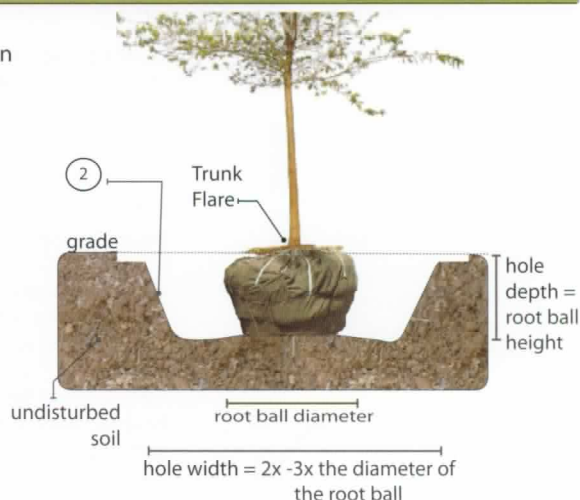
Planting Balled and Burlap and Containerized Trees

1) Digging the Planting Hole

TOOLS



- 1) Call Gopher State One-Call at 1-800-252-1166 before digging. Dig planting hole no deeper than the root ball height. Excavate hole 2-3 times the diameter of the root ball.
- 2) Roughen the sides of the planting hole.
- 3) Before placing the tree in the planting hole, prune dead or broken branches. Remove any tree wrap, tape, string, and tags from tree trunk and branches.
- 4) Gently lower the tree into the hole by holding onto the root ball so that the trunk flare is at or slightly above the original grade.



2) Planting the Tree

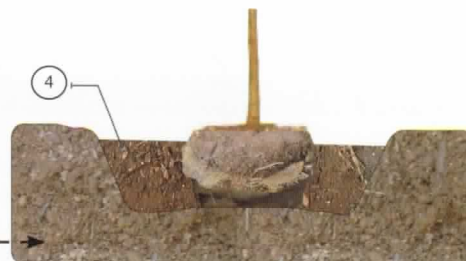
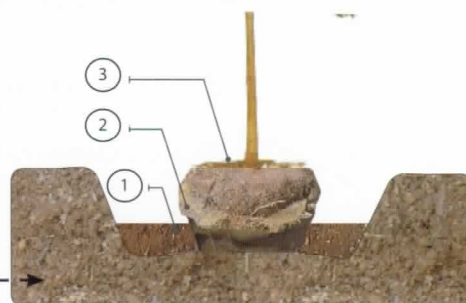
TOOLS



- 1) Backfill 1/3 of the planting hole with original soil to stabilize root ball and keep tree upright.
- 2) Cut and remove top 2/3 of the wire basket.
- 3) Cut and remove top 2/3 of the burlap from the root ball.



- 4) Completely backfill the hole with original soil.



3) Mulching and Watering

TOOLS



- 1) Create a mulch ring around the tree and a 3-6" high soil-and-mulch berm at the edge of the hole. Keep mulch away from the trunk.
- 2) Water the tree thoroughly at planting and 15-25 gallons per week after the planting.



Watering bag- place bag around the tree at the time of planting. One watering bag can hold up to 25 gallons of water, and releases it slowly over time.

