

# PRE-PLANTING TREE CARE GUIDE



For more info contact:  
Swan Lake Watershed  
Ph: 204-734-9550  
Website:  
swanlakewatershed.ca

Proper care before the trees go into the ground will better ensure they grow successfully.

## 1. PICK UP YOUR DELIVERY PROMPTLY

- You can't always control the temperature and conditions of the trees, so bring them home as soon as possible.

## 2. ALWAYS HANDLE SEEDLINGS WITH CARE

- Your trees arrive alive and can be damaged if dropped, bent or broken.

## 3. KEEP YOUR TREES MOIST AND IN A DARK PLACE

- Tree seedlings are very sensitive to heat. If the roots appear dry, submerge them in water for a few minutes (but not over 2 hours). Keep seedlings in a cool and dark location such as a garage. Keep seedlings out of direct sunlight and wrap in a plastic bag to prevent drying out of the roots.

## 4. SELECT THE RIGHT PLANTING SITE

- Select where you want the trees to *permanently live*, do not plant on a site with intention to transplant.
- Do not plant into frozen ground.
- Make sure your trees will have enough space horizontally and vertically to grow. Watch out for buried services and overhead power lines.
- Make sure your site is not too wet or dry for your seedlings.
- Be sure your site receives daily hours of sufficient sunshine.



## 5. PLANT YOUR TREES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

- The sooner you plant your trees, the better they will do.

## 6. PLANTING DAY!

Follow instructions on the reverse for the best planting results. A few things to keep in mind:

- Dig your holes prior to bringing out trees.
- Plant only an amount you are able to handle without interruption to prevent drying out.

Try not to lay your seedlings out beside the holes or they may dry out too quickly in the sun.



## Tips:

- Locate your shelterbelt where it will be most effective
- Allow for space between the trees for maintenance and good tree growth
- Shelterbelts should be planted perpendicular to prevailing winds in the winter
- Site preparation, weed control, and watering are all required when seedlings are young to ensure good growth
- Deciduous Trees: at least 8ft (2.5m) apart
- Deciduous Shrubs: at least 3ft (1.0m) apart
- Coniferous Trees: at least 12ft (3.6m) apart

# TREE PLANTING

## GUIDE



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Follow the pre-planting guide on the reverse to ensure your seedlings receive the best start before they are planted. **When you are ready to plant, follow these steps below.**

### 1. PREPARING THE PLANTING SITE

- Remove the grass or weeds within a 30-cm (12-inch) radius where you will be planting the seedlings. This allows the seedling to focus on growing and not competing for sunlight and water from nearby grass.
- Make sure the soil on the planting site is loose and not compacted. This will improve the moisture retention and allow the seedling to take root better.
- Prepare your site a few days before planting if you are planning on planting a large number of trees.

### 2. DIGGING THE HOLES

- The hole(s) need to be big enough to fit the seedling's bareroot in naturally – not curled around the bottom or pointing back up at the surface.

### 3. FERTILIZING

- Most soil contains an adequate amount of nutrients for the seedling to grow. Though, you may add bone meal to the bottom of the hole(s) to further help root growth.
- Be moderate on additional fertilizer! Some fertilizers have high-nitrogen content that negatively affect seedlings.

### 4. PLANTING

- If possible, plant on cool, cloudy days rather than hot and windy days.
- Ensure the roots (bareroot) of the seedling are spread out in a natural downward orientation and not bent.

### 5. WATERING AND FILLING THE HOLE

- Place the moistened and loosened soil back around the seedling, press firmly around the base of the seedling and water as soon as possible.
- The roots should be completely covered and not exposed to ensure no damage occurs to the seedling.

### 6. WATERING THE AREA

- A planted seedling may not be able to find moisture on its own until 2-3 years later.
- Watering helps the seedling better establish itself and allows deeper rooting to occur over time. Deeper rooting allows the tree to be more drought tolerant.
- Water thoroughly after planting, but *do not drown them* if your soil is poorly drained (i.e. clay soils). Soils should be allowed to dry down before the next watering.

### 7. PROTECTING YOUR SEEDLINGS

- When you look after your trees, they will in-turn look after you.
- Depending on the species of trees you select, you may need to take special precautions to ward off unwanted animals and other pests.
- Flag off individual or rows of trees so others know to be mindful.
- If cultivating between rows, be careful not to injure tree roots.

