

## How To Plant A Bare Root Tree (From the National Arbor Day Foundation)

1. If unable to plant trees right away, keep them in a cool, shaded location and make sure roots are kept moist.
2. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots, and **DO NOT allow roots to dry out.**
3. Dig a hole wider than seems necessary so the roots can spread without crowding.
4. Plant the tree at the same depth it stood in the nursery, without crowding the roots. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots.
5. Shovel in the remaining soil. It should be firmly, but not tightly, packed with your heel. Construct a water holding basin around the tree. Give the tree plenty of water.
6. After the water has soaked in, mulch the area around the tree if desired.
7. Water the trees generously every week or 10 days during the first summer if possible.

## The Wood County Land Conservation Department sells:

- **Generic Gel** - a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods. The gel increases plant survivability.
- **Tree Shelters** - 4-foot plastic, seamless, twin-walled tubes. They protect newly planted seedlings from wildlife damage. They produce a greenhouse environment, resulting in high survival rates and faster growth.

## How To Mix Generic Gel (Root Dip)

Pour gel slowly into bucket of water stirring constantly. Mixture will take a little while to thicken up. Mixture should be density of light gravy or tapioca pudding. Dip all roots into solution but not on plant stem.

**Rents: Tree Planters** - The Land Conservation Department also has four tree planters for rent. The green planter operates off of tractor hydraulics and has a pin hitch. The yellow planter also operates off tractor hydraulics and has a 1 7/8" hitch. The red planter operates with hand pump hydraulics (no tractor hydraulics needed) and has a 1 7/8" hitch. The DNR also has a three-point hitch planter available for rent. We have the hitches if you need them. Rental fee is \$20.00 per 1000 trees. If you are interested in renting these please call the LCD to schedule a time and get a contract signed.

**Rents: Tree Spades** - The Land Conservation Department also has three tree spades available to help you plant your seedlings. Tree spades can be rented for \$5.00/day. If you lose or fail to return it you are responsible for the replacement cost. Please call the office to get on the schedule and get a contract signed.

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## TREE SHELTER INFORMATION

## TREE PLANTING TIPS

## GENERIC GEL MIXING INSTRUCTIONS



## Installing Your Tree Shelters (ONLY FOR DECIDUOUS TREE SEEDLINGS)

1) Plant a high quality seedling according to recommended procedures. The tree shelter is not a substitute for poor nursery stock or poor planting procedures.

2) Trim seedling to a single leader.

3) Drive stake into the ground approximately 1½” from the base of the seedling. In open fields, drive the stake on the windward side of the seedling, for added support. In the shady under story of other trees, drive the stake on the north side of the seedling, to prevent the stake from shading the plant.

4) Gently ease the tree shelter over the seedling. (two holes for locking ties to the top) Be careful not to injure the terminal bud.

5) Twist the tree shelter into the ground. It is critical for the base of the tree shelter to be 1” below the ground surface. This seal is important to keep humidity inside the tube and mice out!

6) Attach and tighten the ratchet locking ties through the holes in the tree shelter and around the stake. (The ties can be loosened as needed. Simply use your thumbnail to press the tab on the square lock found just beneath the strap)

7) Place protective mesh over the top of the tree shelter to prevent entry by birds, and deer browse to terminal bud.

8) Place the shelters in the parts of the field where deer and rabbit damage is likely to occur. Place the shelters on seedlings using a 40-foot spacing. This rate will cover 30 trees/acre.



## Installing The Protective Nets

The plastic net included with your tree shelters prevents birds from entering the tube and harming themselves or the tree.

The net breaks down naturally over 18 months in the sun. It is designed to allow buds to grow through. However, buds can get caught in the net. Each time you are checking your trees, remove the net from those shelters where the tree is a few inches from the top or has already emerged. Bird entry is not a problem after the tree merges.

- 1) Expand the bottom of the net.
- 2) Pull the net 7-8 inches down the tree shelter.
- 3) Adjust the net so the ends of the net are not touching.
- 4) Tape the mesh to the shelter with duct tape.

## Removing Tree Shelters

**DON'T REMOVE TREE SHELTERS FOR AT LEAST 3-5 YEARS!** During the first three years shelters speed the growth of trees. For the next two years they act as support until the tree can stand on its own. Even when the tree is firmly established, tree shelters can protect it from dangers such as deer, mowers, and weed whips.

Tree shelters photo-degrade (crumble) after 5 to 7 years of sun exposure. In shady locations they may last longer and have to be removed.

## Weed Control

Controlling weeds and brush is the key to any successful planting. Tree shelters don't eliminate the need for weed control, but they do make the job easier.

Weeds, particularly grasses, take soil moisture and nutrients away from your seedlings. That means weeds steal growth from your seedlings. Weeds and brush can also shade your seedlings, leaving them starved for sunlight.

There are three methods for achieving weed control. Each has its advantages. Compare the cost-effectiveness and convenience of each, and choose the method best suited for your project. No matter how you do your weed control, the important thing is to just do it!

**1) Organic mulch** - Organic mulch such as wood chips or bark chunks not only block weeds, it keeps the soil cool and moist in summer and releases nutrients as it decomposes. This method can be expensive and impractical for large plantings. In addition, as organic mulch decomposes, weed seeds can germinate in it so some light weeding is necessary.

**2) Herbicides** - The right herbicide, sprayed at the right time, can give you very effective weed control. Talk to your forester or extension agent to find out which chemicals are labeled for use on your trees. Tree shelters make herbicide application easier by protecting the seedlings for the spray.

**3) Tree mats** - Tree mats give you effective weed control for a few years. These include commercial tree mats, several layers of newspaper, plastic lining, weed barrier cloth, etc. The mat is placed on the ground. There is a hole in the center of the mat for the seedling. The mat smothers weeds and does not allow them to grow through the barrier for a few years.