

## How to Plant a Tree:

1. Dig a deep enough hole to allow for the roots to penetrate downwards.
  - Dig a saucer-shaped hole 3X the size of the root ball
2. Lay the tree on its side in or near the planting hole.
3. Wiggle off or cut off the container.
4. Shave off the outer 1-1 ½ inches of the root ball with a knife, saw or pruners.
5. Tilt the tree into place.
6. Check depth of the root ball in the planting hole.
  - Root ball should be approximately 1 to 2 inches above grade
7. Align vertically.
8. Fill the hole and water the tree in.
9. Use tree shelter to protect the tree for wildlife and environmental damages.



## What are 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.

Plant a high quality seedling according to recommended procedures:

1. Trim seedling to a single leader.
2. Drive stake into the ground approximately 1½" from the base of the seedling.
3. Gently ease the tree shelter over the seedling. (two holes for locking ties to the top) Be careful not to injure the terminal bud.
4. Twist the tree shelter into the ground. It is critical for the base of the tree shelter to be 1" below the ground surface.
5. Attach and tighten the locking ties through the holes in the tree shelter and around the stake. (The ties can be loosened as needed.)
6. Place protective mesh over the top of the tree shelter to prevent entry by birds, and deer browse to terminal bud.
7. 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.

## Tree Sale Information:

- ❖ This program has been offered for over 20 years. We offer a large variety of native conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, and wildflowers for interested area residents to purchase.
- ❖ Each year the species available for sale change. Landowner requests are considered annually.
- ❖ Trees come in bundles of 25 trees or shrubs.
  - ♦ Occasionally, smaller bundles will be offered for select fruit species if they are offered that year
- ❖ The order deadline for trees is mid-January. Payment is due at this time.
- ❖ If you missed the deadline to order you may get on a list for extras that are distributed after the sale.
- ❖ Wildflower seed mixes are available in a variety of sizes, difference purposes, and soil conditions.
- ❖ All wildflower seed is grown and harvested in Wisconsin to promote native plants



## How to Use Generic Gel:

Generic gel is a starch absorbent that retains water and gives it back to the plant during dry periods. The gel increases plant survivability. It is available in 4oz. (good for 250 transplants), 1 lbs. (good for 1,000 transplants), and 3 lbs. (good for 3,000 transplants and 12,000 seedlings). A little goes a long way!



1. Gather gel packet, a bucket, stirrer, water, and plant with bare roots.



2. Add gel to the bucket. Slowly add the water and stir.



3. Add water as needed to the mixture until it is the consistency of light gravy.



4. Dip ALL of the plant roots into the mixture. **\*\*DO NOT** dip the plant stem into the mixture.



5. Plant the tree!

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## Do you have any suggestions for next year?

If there are any trees you would like to see next year or any other questions, comments or concerns, please contact the Wood County Land Conservation Department at 715-421-8475 or email

[landcons@woodcountywi.gov](mailto:landcons@woodcountywi.gov) .