Care and Planting of Seedlings

Tree seedlings require water and cool temperatures to survive until planted.

If you intend to plant the trees within a week, keep them in the shipping package in a cool or shaded location, such as a cooler (above freezing), basement, outbuilding or on the north side of a building.

If planting will be delayed longer than a week, open the package, make sure that the roots and packing materials are damp, reseal, and store the package in a cool place, periodically checking the condition of the tree's roots. Or, dig a trench deep enough to accommodate the roots and plant the seedlings, packing soil around their roots. Do not allow the roots to dry out while they are heeled-in in this manner.

Your seedlings have just come through a dormant season. As living organisms, they need sunlight, carbon dioxide, oxygen and water to get a fresh start after planting. The longer you wait to plant the trees, the fewer the number that will survive, regardless of the care given in storage.

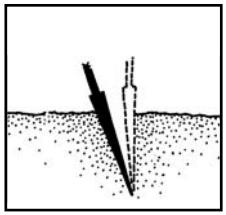
For More Information

ohiodnr.com/forestry

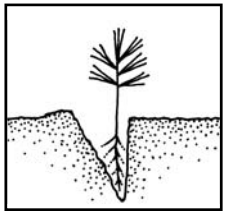
If you need additional information, please contact the ODNR Division of Forestry for the name of your local service forester.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Bldg. H-1
Columbus, Ohio 43229-6693
877-247-8733

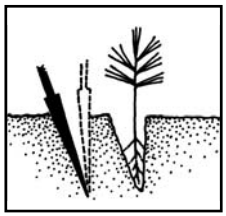
How to Plant



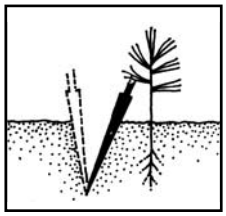
1. Insert dibble at angle shown and push forward to upright position.



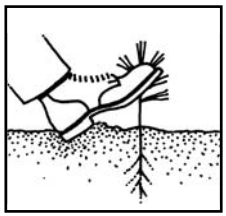
2. Place seedling to depth grown at nursery. Make sure root is straight.



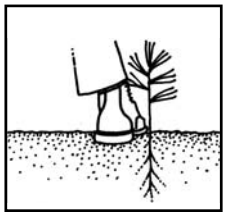
3. Insert dibble two inches from seedling, then pull back to pack the soil around roots.



4. Push handle toward the seedling to finish packing soil at top of roots.



5. Fill in second hole by stomping with heel.



6. Pack soil around seedling with feet.