



How to Plant Seedling Trees For Idaho's Farms and Forests

*Donald Hanley, Extension Forester
David Wenny, Forest Nursery Superintendent,
College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences*

A. Prepare the site for planting (before trees arrive).

1. Cultivate the soil if possible.
2. Scalp remaining weedy vegetation down to mineral soil.
3. Scalp size should be at least 30 inches square.

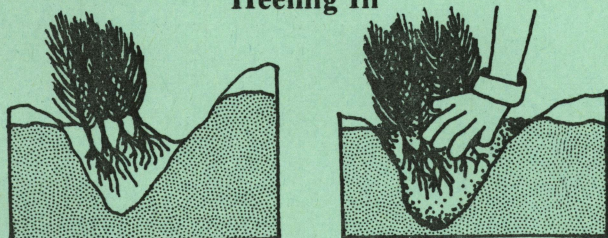
B. Care of trees before planting.

1. Keep bundle cool and roots moist until ready to plant. Refrigerated storage (30 to 45°F) is best for trees kept a few days.
2. Trees should be protected from sunlight and exposure to wind, especially after bundle is opened.
3. Keep wet moss, provided in bundle, around tree roots. Redampen moss if necessary.
4. Carry trees in a bucket with mud slurry, moss or vermiculite around roots. Provide drainage holes to prevent excessive water.
5. Plant all trees as soon as possible. (A few seconds of exposure to the root hairs of most evergreen trees will kill them.)

C. Planting the tree.

1. Make hole deep enough for all roots.
2. Cut long roots back to 10 to 12 inches.
3. Remove one tree at a time from bucket only after hole is ready for the tree.
4. Keep foreign matter (leaves, sticks, duff, rocks, dry soil, etc.) out of hole.
5. All tree roots should be in a downward position.
6. Place tree in center of hole.
7. Hold tree top while working soil around roots.
8. Firm soil around roots by hand while filling hole. Leave no air spaces. Make sure moist soil is used to fill the hole.
9. Bring soil level to root collar (look for color change on stem) above the first roots. Too deep is better than too shallow.
10. Firm soil all around tree by hand to give good compaction.
11. Plant on northside of stumps and logs if possible. They provide shade.

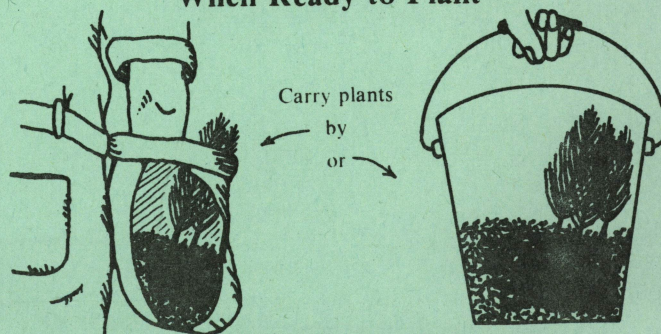
Heeling In



If planting has to be delayed and refrigerated storage is not available, trees should be unpacked and "heeled in."

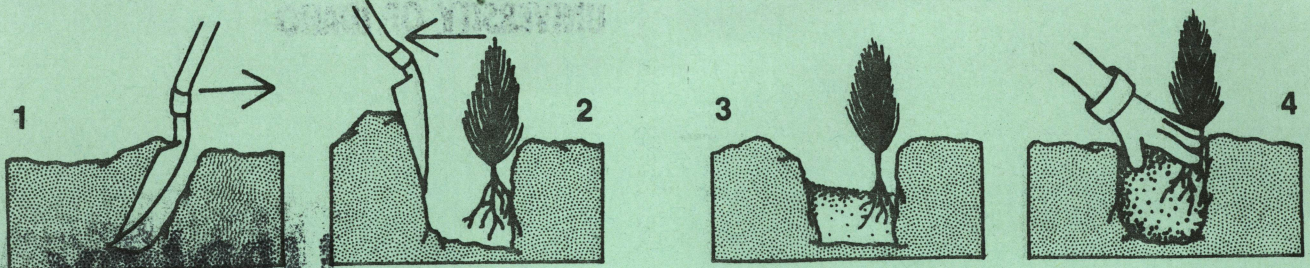
- (1) Dig V-shaped trench in a moist, shady place;
- (2) break bundles and spread out evenly, 3 or 4 trees thick;
- (3) fill in loose soil and water well;
- (4) complete filling in soil and firm with hands.

When Ready to Plant



Keep roots covered with wet material, such as peat moss. Do not submerge the roots in water.

Planting with Spade or Shovel



(1) Insert shovel vertically, with blade reversed, push handle forward, then pull soil back and out of hole; (2) straighten back of hole and insert tree at proper depth; (3) in first packing, fill hole half way with soil and place

tree in proper position; (4) in second packing, fill hole completely, pack with hand and cover surface with mulch of loose soil.

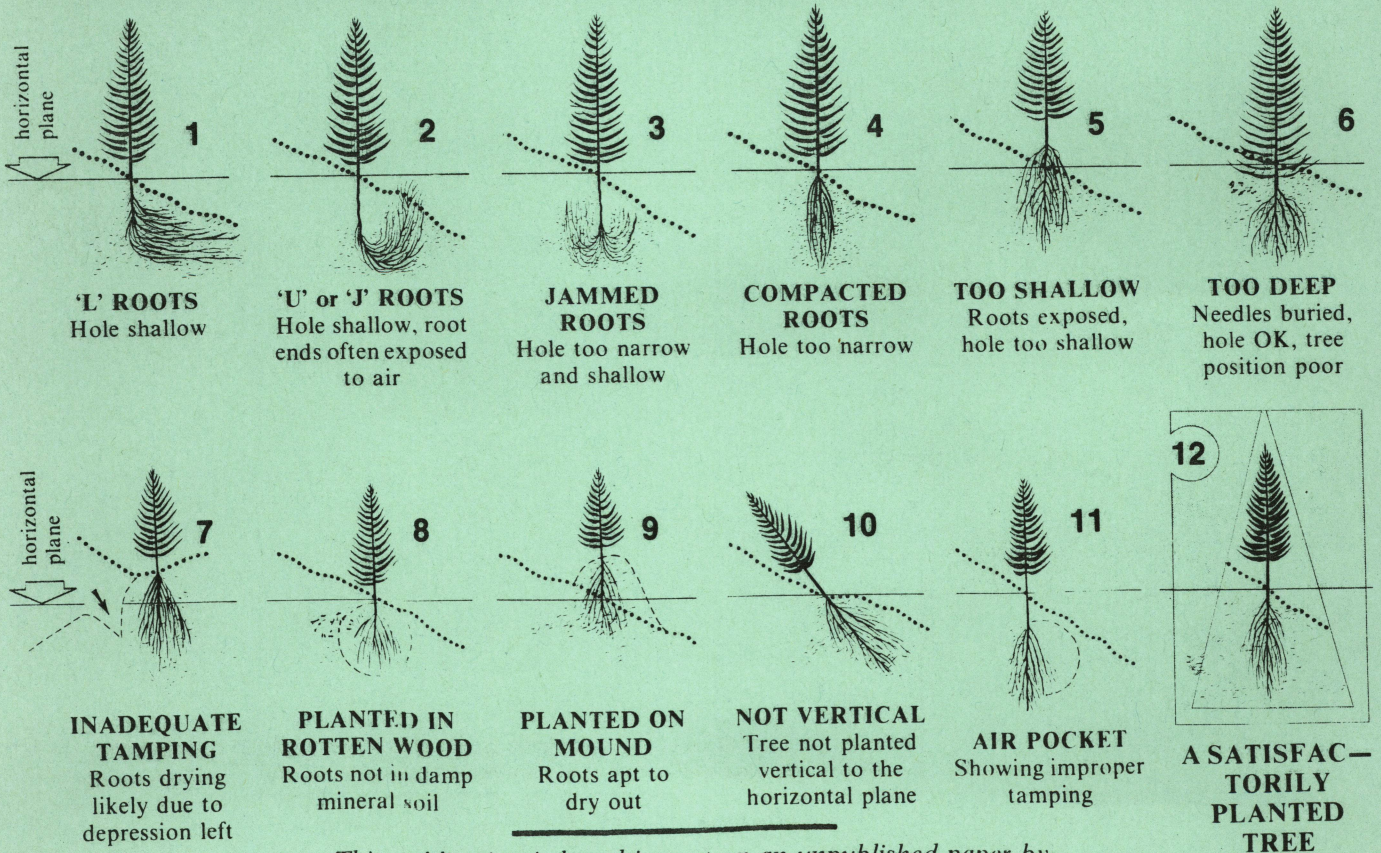
D. Care after planting.

1. Trees should receive one gallon of water per week when natural rainfall does not occur during the first growing season. Do not water after late August.
2. Clean all vegetation from around trees for at least three years.

3. Trees should be protected from livestock and rodents until they are three feet tall.

For additional information read: *Plant Your Trees Right*, PNW 33, available from your local Extension agricultural agent or woodland forester or Extension forester at the University of Idaho.

— Trees Planted in an Unsatisfactory Manner —



This publication is based in part on an unpublished paper by Michael R. Allen, Idaho Department of Lands, and Richard Svenson, USFS.

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