

PERISHABLE NURSERY STOCK

KEEP SEEDLINGS IN BAGS • KEEP BAGS COOL and OUT OF THE SUN

DO NOT FREEZE Attempt to store at 34°F and turn bags daily. • PLANT STOCK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



State Forest Nursery

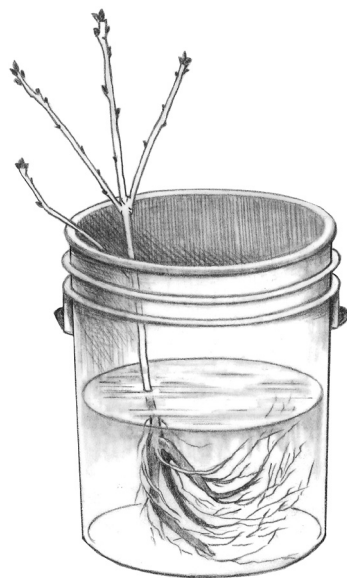
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BEFORE YOU PLANT

Site preparation. Mowing, tilling and weed control prior to planting promote seedling survival by reducing environmental stresses, such as weed competition and pest populations. An ideal site is free of weeds, much like a bean field would appear post-harvest.

Storage. Your white shipping bag provides some insulation for seedlings and shields them from sunlight. Seedlings can be stored in a cool area away from direct light for as many as ten days after leaving the Nursery. A cool garage or basement are typically adequate. Planting as soon as possible will increase your transplanting success rate.

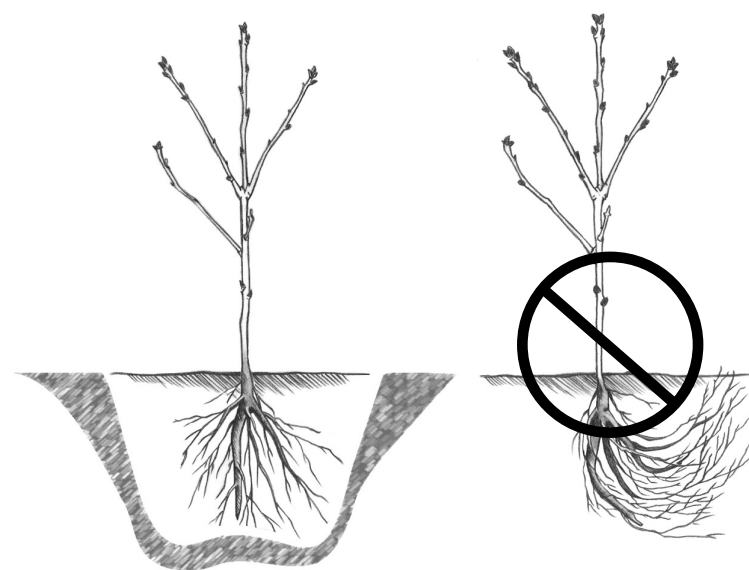


Priming. You will find seedlings sealed in labeled poly-bags to retain moisture and keep species separated for you. Soak seedling roots for 4-8 hours before planting, and do not allow them to dry out. Wrap roots or keep in wet material during transport.

Identify the root collar. The root collar is where the trunk meets the first root. Use this as a soil line when planting. Avoid planting seedlings too deep to ensure plant health and longevity. Avoid planting too shallow, leaving roots exposed, to ensure trees do not dry out.

HAND PLANTING

Dig a shallow, wide hole. Holes should be wider than the root mass, but only as deep as the root mass. Digging a broad hole allows new roots to expand and anchor the tree. Digging as deep as the root mass prevents U-shaped roots, which can result in seedling failure.



Cover the roots. Fill the hole and pack soil gently, yet firmly, to eliminate air pockets. Make sure you do not bury the root collar as you fill and pack soil around the root mass.

MACHINE PLANTING

When planting several hundred or thousands of seedlings, planting machines can be useful. Tractor-drawn planting machines are used in areas that can be worked with farm equipment. Planters can be obtained from some County Conservation Boards for loan or rent. Use instructions should be obtained from the equipment owner. Independent tree-planting services are also available for hire.

When using a machine planter, ensure the planting slit is wide enough to fit seedling root mass. Check to make sure seedlings are planted at the correct depth and soil is firmly packed around the roots.

Care after planting. Plan to maintain plantings for at least three seasons after planting to ensure seedling establishment. The longer you maintain your planting the better your trees will grow. Consult your District Forester regarding herbicide treatments. Mowing or mulching around trees can also reduce weed pressure. Tree tubes can be installed to reduce browsing of seedlings.

For additional information see the Seedling Catalog at iowadnr.gov/nursery or contact your District Forester.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources/Forestry Bureau

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Office of the State Entomologist Certificate of Nursery Inspection No. 183

The nursery stock offered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, State Forest Nursery, has been inspected according to Chapter 177A, Code of Iowa, and has been determined apparently free from dangerously injurious insect pests and diseases. During the certification period the State Forest Nursery has permission to sell, move, or offer certified nursery stock under its control; provided the stock is handled and maintained according the Chapter 177A, Code of Iowa, and related rules. This certificate is revalidated each calendar year based on satisfactory growing season inspections, but may be revoked any time conditions violate the standards for which it was issued.