Huron Conservation District
1460 S. Van Dyke, Bad Axe, MI 48413
(989) 269-9540 extension 3

Tree Planting Guide

Proper Care of planting stock often contributes to the survival and growth of the trees.

- Never store in direct sunlight
- Keep trees cool and out of the wind
- Keep one side of each container exposed to the air
- Spray containers with water if temperatures rise above 40 degrees
- If unable to plant all trees, heel your trees in. Find a place in the shade, protected from the wind, dig a trench and place roots in the trench covering them with soil

During planting

- Avoid planting when the ground is hard, frozen or dry or when excessively wet and sticky
- Allow frozen trees to thaw naturally in bundles before attempting to separate
- Bring only the number of trees necessary for the day of planting to the site
- Moisten the planting stock containers before they are removed from storage
- Shield containers from the sun/wind. Trees should be carried in protective containers or bags to protect roots from exposure to sun and air
    - Remove only one tree at a time from protective container and plant immediately
    - Do not place trees in a bucker of water. This will remove soil particles from the trees which will speed up the drying out of the roots

- TAKE CAUTION WHEN PLANTING TO ASSURE THAT ROOTS ARE PLACED PROPERLY

Transplants may have a surplus of root length. Root length exceeding the height of the tree can be trimmed. Damage from trimming is less than if roots are twisted or become "J rooted".

Be a Backyard Conservationist

Some people believe that you need hundreds of acres to be considered a conservationist, but many of the practices that the big landowners implement can be used right in your own backyard.

Planting trees in your yard has more than just an aesthetic appeal; they can be functional as well. By planting the right type of tree you can bring in a wider variety of birds to your backyard. If you feed birds, especially in the winter, it is important to provide them with a nesting place as well. Planting pine and spruce trees close to your home will reduce the distance the birds have to travel to find food without having to fill a bird feeder all the time.

Properly placing a few trees around your house can save you time and money. Planting trees to block out the summer sun and the winter wind will help you save on your heating and cooling bills. To minimize the need for snow removal, plant shrubs next to your driveway or sidewalk, they will stop the blowing snow.

In addition to these benefits, trees are good for the environment. Trees improve air and water quality by reducing erosion and removing carbon dioxide and impurities. A tree can remove 10 lbs of carbon dioxide a year.

Your lawn may be the next place where you can improve the environment. Over fertilizing your lawn can have detrimental effects on the local water quality. Excess fertilizer runs off when it rains and washes the fertilizer in to the nearest waterway. The fertilizer increases algae growth in the water and ultimately educes the amount of oxygen available for aquatic life. Pesticides will also runoff into streams and lakes and will kill beneficial plants and annuals.

Improving the environment does not take a lot of time, money or land. Spend a little time thinking about what you can do in your own backyard; devise a plan and act on it.

Spacing and planting guidelines: Following rates and spacing will allow trees enough growing room

Solid planting

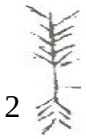
Species	In row	Between row	Needed per acre	Rate per acre
Spruce	6'	9'	725	600-800
Pine	7'	8'	900	800-1000
Hardwood trees	10'	10'	435	400-500
Black walnut	10'	12'	350	300-400
Shrubs	4'	6'	1800	1500-2000

Windbreak/screens

Species	In rows	Between rows
Spruce	7'	9'
Pine	8'	9'
Hardwood trees	10'	12'
Black walnut	10'	10'
Shrubs	5'	7'

*Based on two rows planted and staggered

What does 2-0, 2-2 or 2-4 mean?
First number indicates number or years in nursery, second is number of years transplanted into nature



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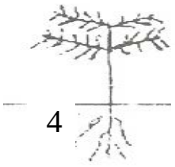

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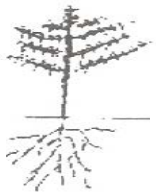

years old

2-0 2-2 2-4

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people." -U.S. Department of Agriculture

"Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property values as much as 20 percent." – Management information Services/CMA

How to Plant a Bare-Root Transplant Tree

It is best to plant bare-root trees immediately in order to keep the fragile roots from drying out. If you can't plant because of weather or soil conditions, store the trees in a cool place and keep the roots moist. *Do not store a in a bucket of water*.

Unpack trees as they are being planted. Do not plant with packing materials attached to roots and do not allow roots to dry out.

Dig a hole wider than seems necessary so the roots can spread without crowding. Remove any grass within a three foot circular area. To aid root growth, turn soil in an area up to 3 feet in diameter

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. Do not add soil amendments.

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.

After the water has soaked in, place a 2 inch deep protective mulch area 3 feet in diameter around the base of the tree (but don not touch the trunk).

Water the tree generously every week or 10 days during the first year.

"There are about 60 to 200 million spaces along our city streets where trees could be planted. This translates to the potential to absorb 33 million more tons of C02 every year, and saving $4 billion in energy costs." – Natural Wildlife Federation

Avoid these mistakes when planting: