

FORESTRY FACTS



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Brief Look At Tree Planting

Leigh Klein

PLANNING

- 1. Know why you want to start a plantation:**
 - ◆ What are your long term goals: what will you do when the trees are mature?
 - ◆ What are your short term goals: will you use your land while the trees grow?
 - ◆ What time and resources can you give to the care of your plantation?
- 2. Select tree species which will meet your goals.**
- 3. Ensure that the species you select will grow well on your site.**
 - ◆ Does your soil provide what the trees need?
 - ◆ Is your climate the correct one for those trees?
 - ◆ Are there diseases or insects in your area which might damage your seedlings?
- 4. Determine what kind of SITE PREPARATION is required.**
 - ◆ Site Preparation is based on soil type, desired tree species and existing vegetation.
 - ◆ On sandy soils, you may only need spot weed control.
 - ◆ On heavy soils and old fields, start your site preparation the fall before planting.
- 5. Design your plantation and draw a sketch of where you will plant your trees.**
 - ◆ Your design ("layout") should include access, harvest and fire roads.
 - ◆ Your goals should be reflected in the design (wildlife openings, stream buffers, etc).

PLANTING

- 1. Keep seedlings cool (35° F) and moist (90-95% humidity); handle them gently.**
 - ◆ During transportation, vigorously protect your seedlings from all sources of heat.
 - ◆ If packages are warm, open and remoisten the roots. Reseal the package
 - ◆ Optimal storage is refrigerated and short term (maximum 2 days).
- 2. Move only a 1/2 day's seedlings to the planting site at a time.**
 - ◆ Protect your seedlings on site from heat, wind and physical damage.
- 3. Cull weak seedlings from your planting stock.**

4. **When planting, make sure that the roots hang freely in the hole or planting silt.**
 - ◆ Place the seedling so that the old soil line is 1/2" below the surface.
5. **Make sure no air holes remain in the soil, and that you do not shear off roots.**
 - ◆ Hand planting: fill the hole with soil and firmly press the soil into place.
 - ◆ Machine planting: hold the seedlings in place until the packing wheels take over.

TECHNIQUES

Planting with a shovel



1. Insert shovel; pull back to open a hole, or dig a hole



2. Place seedling at proper depth. (May require a second person)



3. Rake soil into the bottom of the hole; pack



4. Put remaining soil into hole ensure that seedling is upright.



5. Using the ball of your foot, firmly pack soil.

Planting with a hoedad



1. Make a vertical cut with the hoedad.



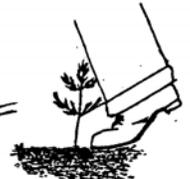
2. Pull back on the handle to open a hole



3. Place seedling and use tip of hoedad to pack soil at base of the hole.



4. Scrape remaining soil into the hole.



5. Using the ball of your foot, firmly pack soil.

Planting with a planting-bar



1. Plant "bar" vertically and rock back and forth to open a slit.



2. Place seedling in slit; plant bar two inches to left of hole.



3. Rock the planting bar to close soil around seedling.



4. Plant bar again, and rock it to pack soil around seedling.



5. Using the ball of your foot, firmly pack soil.

1. **Be vigilant about reducing competing vegetation.**
 - ◆ You must control weeds and grasses to obtain maximum seedling growth.
2. **Watch for browsing or clipping injuries.**
 - ◆ These indicate the presence of an animal population you may need to control.
3. **Watch for signs of disease or insect infestation; contact your forester for advice.**
 - ◆ Look for yellowed, brown, mottled or withered shoot tips, needles or leaves.
 - ◆ Look for mushrooms around base of seedlings.
 - ◆ Look for localized swelling or lesions on the stem or branches.
 - ◆ Frost and drought may cause similar symptoms; evaluate the problem carefully.
4. **Check the survival rate of your plantation.**
 - ◆ Estimating survival allows you to identify problems and find appropriate solutions.

For more information: see the [Wisconsin Woodlands Tree Planting Series](#) from UWEX and contact your local forester.