

# SEEDLING PLANTING GUIDE

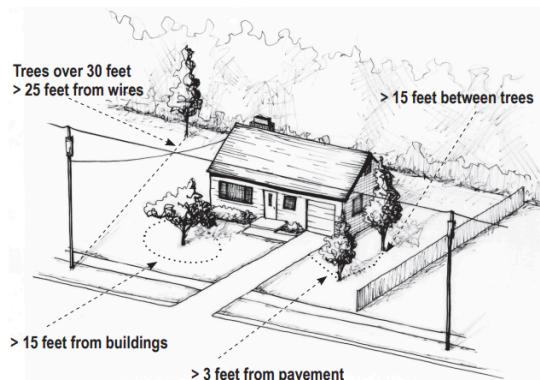
SCHOOLCRAFT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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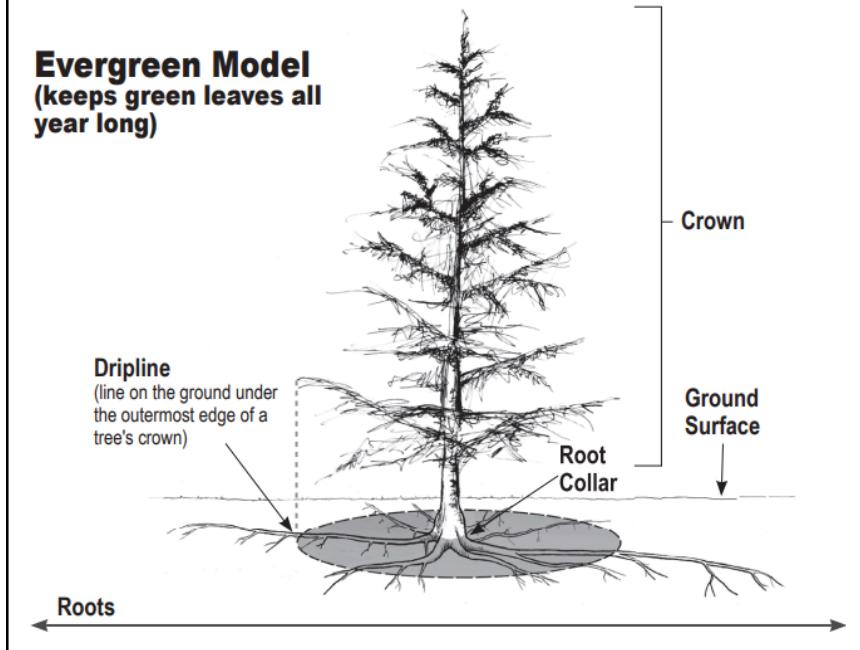


**PRE-PLANTING CARE** will contribute to the survival and growth of the trees. Be sure to:

- Store your seedlings in a cool, shaded location.
- Keep your seedlings out of direct sunlight and wind.
- Keep the roots moist - NEVER LET THEM DRY OUT!
- If unable to plant your seedlings immediately, heel them. Find a shaded place that's protected from the wind and dig a trench. Place the roots in the trench and lay the plants on the ground at an angle, loosely filling with moist soil.
- Avoid planting when the ground is hard, frozen, dry, or excessively wet and sticky



## Evergreen Model (keeps green leaves all year long)



**CHOOSE A LOCATION** where your seedling won't interfere with buildings, overhead utilities, or pavement as it grows. Make sure it is:

- At least 15 feet from buildings and/or other trees to avoid overcrowding
- At least 3 feet from pavement or fencing on all sides
- At least 25 feet from overhead electric wires if your tree will exceed 30 feet in height; guides for expected growth can be found at schoolcraftcd.org.

Call MISS DIG at 811 prior to planting to ensure you won't hit any underground utilities! It's not only the law, but may also be life-saving!

## PLANTING BARE-ROOT SEEDLINGS

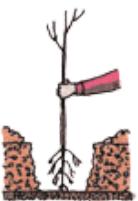
Note: Unpack seedlings one by one as they are being planted to ensure the roots are kept moist. Remove all packaging and prune ONLY branches that are broken or dead. Some transplants may have a surplus of root length; root length exceeding the height of the seedling may be trimmed.



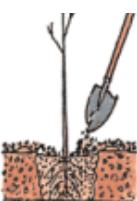
1. Dig a hole that's twice as wide as the root system and as deep. Roots should be able to grow outward without crowding. For best growth, remove grass and turn up the soil within three feet of the planting hole. Break up clumps to ensure proper drainage.



3. Create a water-holding basin around the base of the seedling and water generously. For the first year post-transplant, check on the seedling once every 7-10 days to ensure the soil remains moist. Water as needed.

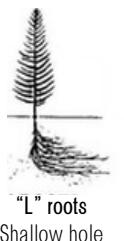


2. Place your tree in the hole so that the root collar is just above the ground. Partially fill the hole, firming the soil around the lower roots. Continue to shovel in the remaining soil. It should be packed firmly to eliminate any air pockets.



4. After the water has soaked in, layer 2 inches of mulch evenly in a 3 foot diameter surrounding the seedling. Be careful to leave space around the seedling to avoid direct contact with the trunk.

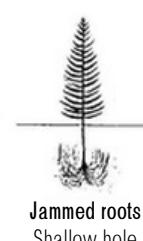
## COMMON MISTAKES



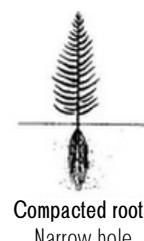
"L" roots  
Shallow hole



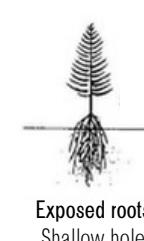
"J" roots  
Shallow hole



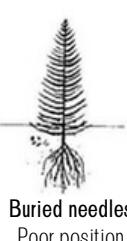
Jammed roots  
Shallow hole



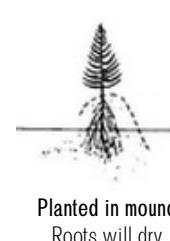
Compacted roots  
Narrow hole



Exposed roots  
Shallow hole



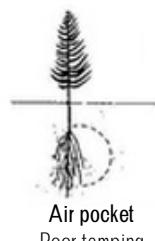
Buried needles  
Poor position



Planted in mound  
Roots will dry



Not vertical  
Lacks support



Air pocket  
Poor tamping

Our tree sale is made possible by the 2018 Schoolcraft Conservation District millage.

Information and illustrations from the USDA Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation. The full Tree Owner's Manual is available for free online.