

TREE PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

******Know the location of any tile or buried cable, so these areas can be avoided. To locate buried cable, make a call to the Toll-Free Gopher State One Call number, 1-800-252-1166, at least 24 hours before planting, to have any buried cables located.******

Site preparation: Work your tree planting site well, 10-12” deep. Use a chisel plow, if it is available. Start shallow and increase the dept each time you work the site, but keep it sealed up by disking or dragging after digging, to conserve moisture. This will provide a more even job of planting and assure you of trouble-free cultivation after planting. Use a digger or field cultivator after planting rather than a disk, to prevent ridging of the row.

Site preparation: Have your area staked out using the tree plan designed by the District. If you need a copy of your tree plan, or if you would like help from our office, just let us know. (Note: If your tree planting is a field windbreak located on a property line, it is the responsibility of the landowners to determine the boundaries.)

It is *especially* important for those tree planting receiving cost-share funds to be laid out just as the tree plan was designed, in order to stay in compliance.

Planting: Normally, trees arrive around the third week of April, and we are required to be done planting by May 31st, unless weather conditions do not permit. You will be contacted to set up a time for planting. You are required to provide a tractor (50 hp or more) and driver for planting. We bring the trees and planter, and do the actual planting.

Please try to work us into your schedule when called. We try to do all the plantings in an area at one time. This prevents excess travel, since this is a very large county. It will be the responsibility of the client to plant potted stock, unless other arrangements have been made.

After planting is completed, a bill will be made out and mailed to you for the actual amount of trees planted. This is to be paid to the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District. When CRP cost-share is involved, you must provide copies of billings to the FSA (formerly ASCS) office and complete forms to receive the cost-share reimbursement.

Weed management: Keep your trees clean, you can have trees or weeds – you can’t have both. The cleaner you keep your trees, the better survival rate you get.

Plant competition can be removed by hand, mechanical or chemical means. Do not disturb or damage seedlings by improper use of chemicals, tools or machinery. Use chemical or mechanical weed control as frequently as needed. When mechanical cultivation is used, do not cultivate deeper than 3”, and **stay well outside the drip line to prevent root injury.**

Be certain you carefully read the tree replacement policy on the backside of your tree billing. If you have any questions, contact our office.

Watering your trees: Watering your new trees, immediately after planting, is perhaps the most important watering you will give your new trees. Doing so, helps seal air pockets formed during the planting process and helps relieve the stress created during the planting. Continued, regular watering insures a proper start for your new trees.

A rule of thumb is to soak each tree to a depth of 10-12”, once a week through July. Continue this if the summer is excessively hot and windy. Second and third year trees will also benefit from this watering schedule.