

# D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery Planting Guide

## Before Planting

- Remember your seedlings are alive and must be carefully handled and properly taken care of until planting.
- Plant seedlings as soon as possible. Do not store out of cold storage any longer than necessary.
- Seedlings must be kept moist and cool. (35-40 degrees out of cooler storage)
- Store Seedlings in a cool place taking care to not freeze.
- Protect seedlings from sunlight and wind.
- Use a reflective tarp for transporting seedlings from cooler and/or to planting site.
- If using cooler facilities for storage, monitor continuously for temperature. Temperatures should be kept 33-34 degrees, with good air circulation.
- Handle bags gently and take precautions to minimize bouncing and sliding around in vehicle.

## Seedling Planting

- Before or after planting, remove or control competing vegetation (grass, brush, weeds, etc.) from a 3 foot radius circle around the seedling.
- Plant on cool, cloudy, or rainy days - avoid planting in full sun.
- Place seedlings in planting bags so roots are well protected from drying out - NEVER let roots dry out.
- If you have no planting bag, use the seedling packaging bag. Always close the bag after extracting each seedling to protect the seedlings in the bag.
- NEVER lay out the seedlings on the ground where they will be planted. Pull the seedling out of the bag after the hole is prepared.
- If the roots appear to be drying out, dip them in water before planting NEVER soak seedlings in water, seedling roots must breathe.
- Do not prune the roots before planting. Roots were pruned at the nursery.
- Use a planting tool best suited for the seedling and site - shovel planting for large rooted seedlings and hoe planting for small rooted seedlings.
- Make sure the roots fall straight down in the planting hole - do not allow J rooting or compaction on roots.
- Make sure the roots are covered with loose soil, gently packing soil around the roots making sure there are no air pockets in the planting hole.
- Keep the root collar level with or slightly below the packed soil surface, but no deeper than the lowest branch.

