

FORESTRY FACT SHEET



Tree Handling Tips

Potted stock and bareroot trees are a **living product!** The proper handling and storage of tree stock is a very important step to ensuring a successful planting project. Load trees carefully into vehicles and try to avoid throwing or dropping trees. Remember different types of stock require different types of handling, so make sure to plan ahead when picking up or receiving your trees.

Potted stock

- Potted stock should be covered with a tarp or transported in a covered trailer/vehicle. Without protection, extensive damage can occur to the buds and foliage during transportation.
- Prevent damage to bark and branches by securing trees to reduce movement while in transport.
- If you can't plant your potted stock right away, make sure to store the trees in a sheltered area and water frequently.
- Lift and carry the trees by grabbing the pot, not by grabbing the stems or upper branches.



Bareroot trees

- Bareroot trees including **saplings, whips and seedlings** are lifted from the soil and packaged while dormant, then kept in cold storage until the time of planting.
- Take care to protect the buds and fine branching of trees while transporting.
- Sun and wind will dry out the root system very quickly and will reduce the tree's viability – always keep the root system cool, moist, and covered until the trees are in the ground!
- If the root system appears to be dry you can lightly water the roots before planting, however don't submerge the roots in water for a long duration.
- The trees should be planted the same day you receive them.

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Tree Planting Tips

Tree planting is a very rewarding task! The trees you are planting today will provide benefits for generations to come. Taking the time to plant the tree **properly and in the right location** improves the success of the planting project.

Site selection

- Select tree species based on the soil type and moisture conditions of the site.
- Do not plant directly under utility wires or on top of buried utilities or septic systems.
- Avoid planting trees too close to buildings, laneways and fences or underneath the crown of existing trees.
- Choose a site free from standing water, stumps and rocks.



Planting guidance

- Dig a hole that is deep and wide enough for the entire root system.
- **Bareroot trees:** place the tree in the hole and spread the roots out evenly, don't bunch, spiral, double over or bend roots.
- **Potted stock:** After removing the plastic pot, loosen compacted or spiraled roots before placing the root ball in the hole.
- Plant trees so that the root collar is even with the soil line. The root collar is the area between the root system of the tree and the main stem often indicated by a swelling in the stem or a change in the stem colour. The highest root should be covered with soil, while leaving the stem exposed to air.
- Pull loose soil back into the hole and pack the soil tightly over roots leaving no air pockets. Watering after planting can also help settle the soil and remove air pockets.
- Remember to remove all string, identification tags, plastic, bamboo sticks and burlap from the trees after planting as these materials can cause stem girdling.