

## Choose the Right Place to Plant:



How tall and broad will your tree grow?

Where are the utilities/wires?

Where is your septic system?

Where is the building/house foundation?

What are the growing requirements?

Did you test your soil?  
Is it moist? Is it well-drained? Is it acidic?

These are all important things to think about. Your trees and shrubs may seem small today but they can grow to great heights and widths. It is important to remember that roots can grow just as big underground.

## ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[www.ontswcd.com](http://www.ontswcd.com)

480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424

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## TREE & SHRUB SEEDLING PLANTING GUIDE

Ontario County Soil & Water  
Conservation District

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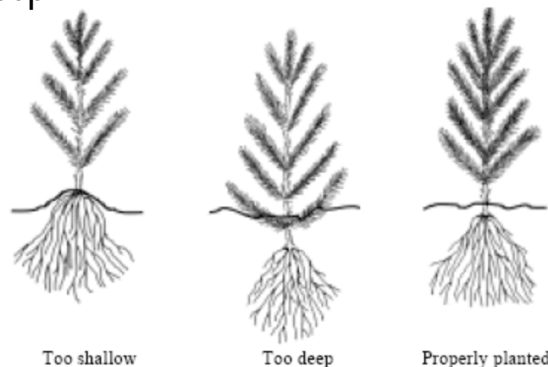


The Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District has wrapped your tree and shrub roots in shredded newspaper dipped in hydrated gel to retain moisture during the transfer to your planting site.

When you receive your trees, the deciduous ones will generally be leafless and the evergreens may have a few yellow needles from the winter cold.

Even though your trees are dormant, they are very much alive.

Carefully plant your trees right away, water them well and allow several weeks for them to put out buds. They will soon awaken from their winter sleep.



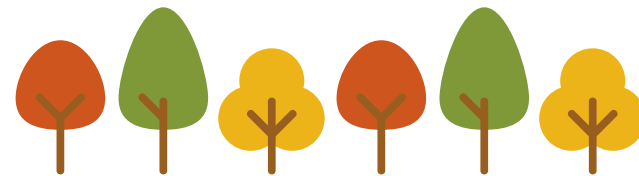
Too shallow

Too deep

Properly planted

## Spring is the best time for planting

1. Keep the roots moist until you are ready to plant. Transport seedlings in a bucket with water.
2. Dig a hole wide enough for roots to spread and deep enough that roots will not be bent.
3. Add old compost in the bottom of the hole.
4. Spread out the roots.
5. Hold the tree in place, fill the hole with soil, and pack the soil firmly. Leave no air pockets. The soil should cover the plant right above the roots.
6. Spacing: Approximately 6' on center.
7. Water the tree well as soon as you plant it.
8. Protect the trees with fencing, shelters or other means to minimize animal browsing.
9. Keep the grass and weeds away from the bottom of the trees and shrubs.
10. Water weekly for the first year, except in the freezing weather. Water during dry periods in second year.



## HEELING IN TREES:

If the weather is warm and you are not ready to plant, heeling the seedlings into a trench will protect the roots until they can be planted.

1. Dig a trench in a cool, moist, shady area away from sun and wind. The trench should be deep enough to bury all roots.
2. Spread out seedlings along one side of the trench.
3. Spread out the roots, refill trench and firmly pack soil around the roots. It is important no air touches the roots.
4. Keep the soil moist.

If the weather is too cold to plant, put the bundle in a cool, frost-proof place. Open the bag and dampen the tops and the packing around the roots with water.

