



1424 East College Drive - Suite 600
Market Street Office Complex
Marshall Minnesota 56258

phone (507) 537-0396 ext. 3
fax (507) 532-7479

Tree Care

1. Care of Potted evergreens

Evergreens ordered from the nursery come in pots or containers. We ask that anyone who has ordered evergreens take care of them after we receive them from the nursery and before we can get them planted as we do not have a secure place to take care of them ourselves. We will call landowners when we receive these trees and organize a pick-up date.

To take care of these container trees before planting the soil in the container needs to be kept moist and the tree stored in a shady spot.

2. Care of seedlings after the planting

A. Watering. Trees and shrubs must be watered immediately after planting making sure no air pockets form between roots. They should be soaked to the depth of 8 inches, and at least twice during the first year if there is a shortage of moisture. The general rule of thumb is seedlings will need an equivalent of 1" of water per week during the growing season and less towards the end of the growing season. Even though trees may be drought-tolerant, they need water to establish a healthy root system.

B. Weed control is important to keeping seedlings growing healthy. Unwanted vegetation competes with newly planted trees for moisture nutrients, and growing space. Fiber matted trees have a 30 % higher survival rate due to the retention of soil moisture that matting provides and the reduction of weed competition. Seeding grass between rows is recommended to keep weed growth down and to help prevent erosion between rows. If matting is not used we recommend keeping the dirt black for several years by using tillage methods.

C. Pest management. Check trees and shrubs throughout the growing season for insects, diseases, and pests. Rabbits and deer can be detrimental to new seedlings. Tree tubes are available at the Lyon Co SWCD office for purchase. These can help with foraging animals. Other forms of repellents using smell and taste are available from lawn and garden stores and are very effective but expensive and usually require reapplications.

D. Pruning and thinning are good ways to help control disease and get rid of unproductive branches that will in turn develop a strong tree structure. This is best to do after the trees have grown for 2 to 3 years and preferably when the tree is still dormant in the late winter to early spring before the spring growth has started. Lyon SWCD will assist with this practice for a fee.