

In the Field

Trees should be kept cool and moist while in the field awaiting planting. Trees left from the previous day's planting should be rotated to the top of the load so they are planted first. Careful planning will assure the majority of the stock taken to the field is planted each day. Trees that have become dry should be discarded.

If trees have been in storage for more than 15 days, soak roots in water for a few minutes before planting.

Never expose the seedlings to dry winds or hot sun during the planting operations. Always keep the tree roots moist.

**Avoid
Planting on
Hot, Windy
Days.**

Tree roots can be kept moist while on the tree planter by one of the following methods:

- Tree roots can be dipped in water and covered with wet burlap or other material.
- Containers holding water can be used to carry trees on the planter. Tree roots are kept in water until the tree is planted. Do not leave trees in water overnight.
- Treeroots can be dipped in a moisture holding gel. This material will keep tree roots moist for up to 15 minutes.

Tree planters should be operated at a slow ground speed to allow planting crews adequate time to properly place the trees in the planting shoe. High speeds can result in "J" shaped roots.

Excessively long roots on trees cannot be planted properly and should be pruned. See ND Forest Service brochure entitled, "How to Prune Tree Roots Before Planting."

Trees should be planted one inch deeper than they are grown in the nursery.

After Planting

After planting, straighten every tree and firmly pack the soil around the base of the tree.

Tree plantings should be kept free of weeds to allow the trees to grow and develop properly.

If possible, water all trees immediately after planting. Weed barrier fabric or other forms of mulch should be considered to conserve soil moisture and control weeds.

Fertilizer applications are usually not beneficial unless irrigation is available.

Adding fertilizer will increase the moisture requirements of the tree.

Information

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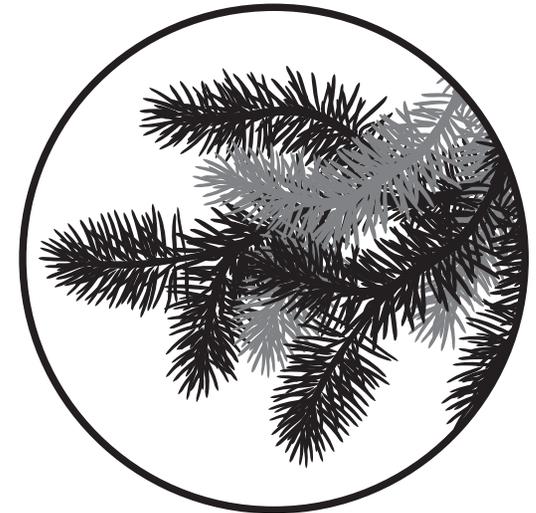
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Towner State Nursery

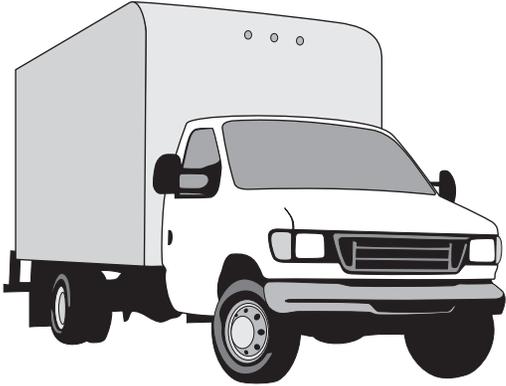
How to Care for Evergreens After Leaving the Nursery



NDSU

Transportation

Transport trees in a vehicle with adequate room to avoid compaction. Evergreens can heat while being transported and tight packing reduces air exchange and speeds up the heating process.



If using a horse trailer, cover all openings. Avoid rough handling of tree stock. Buds are easily damaged and bruising destroys stem tissue.

If possible, transport trees during morning hours when temperatures are cooler. When stopping, always park loaded vehicles in shade.

Unload trees as soon as possible. Never leave trees loaded on a truck overnight.

Storage Without Refrigeration

Store trees in a cool damp area such as a basement or cool garage. Do not remove trees from nursery package. Allow good air circulation around each package. Keep storage time to a minimum. Plant trees within a few days.

Always transport trees in an enclosed vehicle.

Refrigerated Storage

Store trees at 34 to 38 degrees F. Humidity should be above 85 percent. Use shelves or spacers to allow air circulation around tree packages.

The Towner Nursery packages trees in either bales, bags, or boxes. Each package is marked with the date it was prepared. These packages will retain adequate moisture for about two weeks.

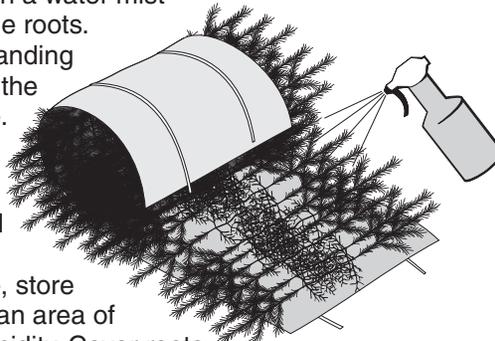
After two weeks, begin periodic checks of the packages to see that the roots remain moist. Do this by opening the package and feeling the roots. If moisture is needed, spray tree roots with a water mist to wet the roots. Avoid standing water in the package.

If trees are removed from the package, store them in an area of high humidity. Cover roots with a layer of wet shingletow or other moisture holding material.

Cover only roots, not the tops. This will reduce mold problems.



Do not dip evergreen roots in water or captanwater solution before storage. Store trees in nursery package for first two weeks.



Never store evergreens without covering the roots.

Storage Problems – Mold

Proper storage usually prevents severe mold problems. However, if packages of trees become warm or are stored for longer than two weeks, mold can develop.

If this occurs, open the package, spray the trees with a captan-water solution, and repackage the trees. Check for recurring mold problems.

Long Storage Periods

Spring lifted evergreens can be kept in refrigerated storage for up to six weeks. However, long storage periods (over three weeks) will lessen the vigor of the trees and will reduce initial growth and survival.

Ponderosa pine stored over two weeks may exhibit delayed bud break, short needle growth, and poor fall bud set.

Avoid storage problems by planting trees as soon as possible.

Strive to complete the tree planting season by June 1.

