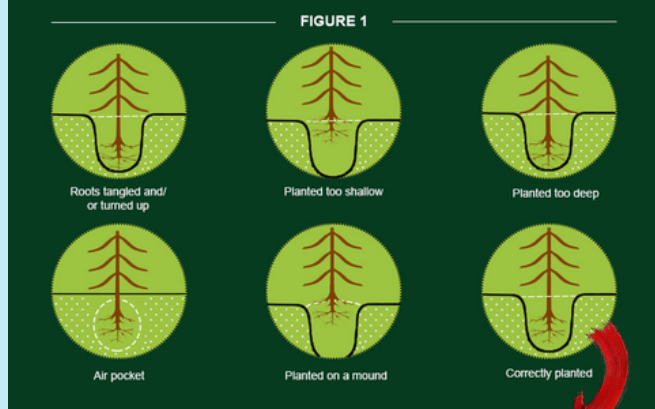


# Tips for Planting Success

## Plant at the Right Depth

When planting seedlings, it is important that your hole is the right size. Holes that are too shallow or too deep can lead to undesirable outcomes. For containerized seedlings, the top of the root ball should be level with the surface of the soil. Thus, if you have a 6" tube, your hole should be about 6" deep. For bareroot seedlings, the roots should be able to dangle in the hole without being bent over at the bottom of the hole.



Proper Planting Depth

## Other Considerations

**Leafing Out** - If planting deciduous species (those with leaves) in the spring, wait to plant until the native trees are leafing out.

**Know your Water (Well) Rights** - If you are on a well, you should check your well rights prior to planting outdoor vegetation as you might have a Household-Only Well that does not allow for outdoor water use.

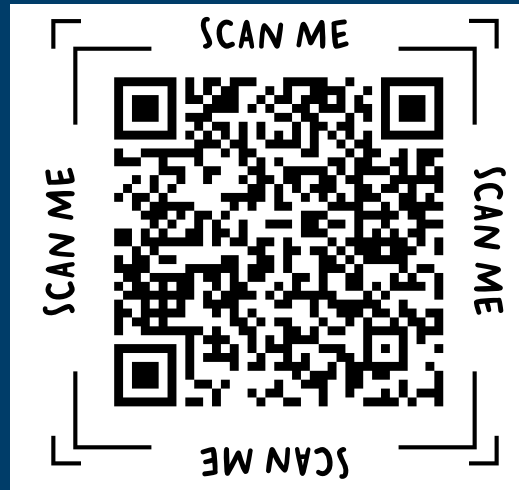


Interested in learning more?

Keep an eye out for more GCWC forestry pamphlets!

CSFS

Tree Planting Guide



For more details on programs, fire restrictions, resources, or to get involved:

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**BEWILDFIREREADY.ORG**  
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# Reforestation

# Tips for Hand Planting



info@bewildfireready.org  
72399 US Hwy 40  
Tabernash, CO

# Tips for Planting Success

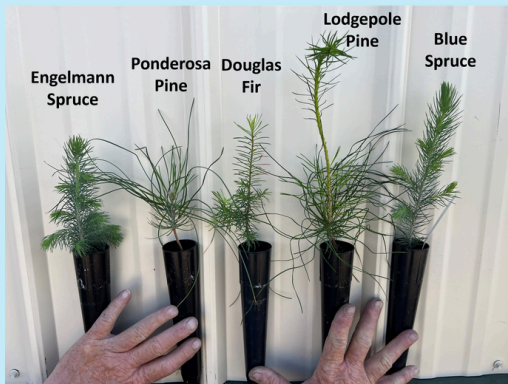
## Understand Differences in Size

When you buy seedlings, you may see different sizes offered. Either way, remember that seedlings are VERY SMALL - think stick with needles.

**Bareroot Seedlings** - These seedlings are wrapped in sawdust and come as a bundle of 25 or more seedlings. The roots do not have soil around them. They are the cheapest option and are good for large projects where mass quantities are needed at a cost effective price. Bareroot seedlings often come in a dormant state (leaves not emerged). Due to the fragility of the bareroots, timing of planting is more critical.

**Containerized Seedlings**- These seedlings come in tubes or pots with soil around the roots. They have more established root systems and are may show signs of branching and established leaf growth.

**If you want larger trees that are several feet tall, you want saplings, not seedlings.**



Tube (potted) seedlings sold by the Middle Park Conservation District.

# Tips for Planting Success

## Plant in Spring or Fall

For the greatest success, plant in the spring or fall, not in the middle of the summer. Hot, dry conditions during the summer add undue stress to a seedling that is already stressed enough from trying to establish new roots and adjust to a new environment.

## Choose Species Wisely

We all know that not all species grow everywhere. If that were the case, I'd happily take some palm and coconut trees please :) Joking aside, not all species adapted to growing up here in the mountains grow in every condition. Some prefer wetter, shadier areas, while others do better in more exposed, sunnier areas. **The best way to determine which species to plant is to look at the species that are naturally growing around that area.** You can also visit the CSFS Trees for Conservation Guide.



## Plan to Water but Not Fertilize

Seedlings need at least one gallon per week for the first season and 2-3 gallons for the second-third growing seasons. In drought conditions and when high winds wick moisture away, additional watering may be needed. Nevertheless, you don't want to water too much either. If you pick up a handful of soil and can form a ball or ribbon in your palm (without excess water dripping out), it has adequate moisture.

**We do not recommend fertilizing seedlings** for at least one season after planting. The reason is because fertilizer promotes top growth/height and seedlings need to focus their energy on establishing their roots.

# Tips for Planting Success

## Half will Die

You should expect that 50% or more of your seedlings will die. Proper watering, sun and shade, soil type, planting depth; species, timing of planting, and site characteristics can all play into successful planting. **Even if you do everything "right", you may still not have success - that's Mother Nature.**

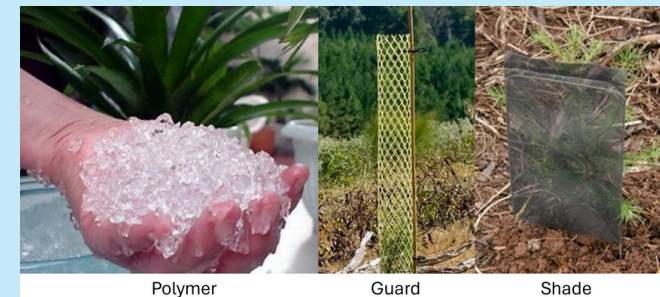
## Tree Spacing

Tree seedling spacing can vary based on planting goals. If you are hoping to establish a wind break or replant a forest for the purpose of logging, you would plant trees more closely. **If you are trying to establish landscaping around a home, trees should be planted at least 6-10 feet apart and following Defensible Space guidelines.**

Remember, small seedlings will grow into large trees that need their personal space, just like us.

## Consider Seedling Survival Supplies

Seedlings are small and fragile. They are prone to grazing pressure by moose, deer, elk, rabbits, voles, and other small animals. Wind and sun can "burn" them, and their shallow root system can dry out quickly. While no supply offers a guarantee, the use of **tree guards, tree shades, water polymer, weed barrier, and mulch** can increase survival rates.



Polymer

Guard

Shade