



## How many plants do I need?

To establish the number of plants required to fill a known area, use the following calculation method:

In large grouped plantings shrubs are usually planted about 1.8 meters (6.0 ft apart) or 3000 shrubs per hectare (1000 per acre). Deciduous and evergreen trees are planted about 3 meters (9 ft apart) or 1000 trees per hectare (450 trees per acre).

## For Small Projects

Mark the locations of the individual units of plant material and use the spacing to determine location of the next unit. Keep count of the number of plants required for your planting project.

and until planted may be susceptible to damage from:

- Rough handling of pots.
- Mechanical damage to the tops and young shoots.
- Lack of water.

## For Large Projects

Estimate or measure the size of your planting area in hectares or acres and multiply that number by the appropriate number of units recommended. This will give you the number of units of plant materials required to fill the planting site at the prescribed spacing.

Poor handling and storage prior to planting can adversely affect the plants survival. Always plan to plant your pots as soon as possible after pick up.

## How should you transport your plants?

- Transport your plant material in a covered vehicle or under a tarp to reduce exposure to wind and sun.
- Minimize your travel time, unload and store ASAP.
- Do not leave plants to overheat in an unventilated vehicle or trailer.
- Water your pots when you get home.

We often plant a cluster of shrubs with one tree in the middle of the shrubs and then another tree with another cluster of shrubs. Trees can also be planted in groves or along fence lines. Shrubs should be planted in groupings of the same species.

## Considerations prior to planting

CVC staff will contact you to pick up planting stock at the CVC Forestry Operation Center - Warwick Conservation Area on a predetermined Saturday in early May. Your plant materials have been grown in plastic pots and have an established root system. At the time of pick up, some plant material may be leafing out. Remember your plants are coming out of their dormant state

## How to store plants prior to planting?

- Store your pots in a cool shaded area.
- Water the pots as required.
- Limit exposure to sun and wind.



# Tree Planting Service

## How do I properly plant my potted material?

### • Site Preparation: Steps 1 & 2

To properly plant potted stock, a few small cuts with the shovel may be used to remove grass and competing roots. This will expose the soil in the area that the tree or shrub is going to be planted. Do not return any sod in the hole when planting.

### • Size of Hole: Step 2

After the grass is removed a circular hole should be dug. The width of the hole should be approximately double the size of the pot and the depth should be just a few inches deeper than the pot.

### • Placing Tree in Hole: Steps 3 & 4

For trees in plastic pots - the root ball needs to be **removed from the pot** and carefully placed in the hole at the correct depth. For trees in fibre and paper pots - the top lip should be peeled off then carefully placed in the hole. Make sure that the tree is straight and the root ball centred in the hole.

### • Finishing the Hole: Steps 5 & 6

Fill the hole with the soil that was removed when it was dug. Tamp the earth down around the root ball and finish filling the hole. Smooth the soil out and make a small impression around the tree about an inch deep.

- Water your plants after planting. It is better to plant a little shallow rather than too deep because the plant will settle after it is planted and watered.
- Apply a mulch and a tree guard. Mulches can be natural materials (wood chips, rotted manure, or grass clippings) or man-made (pressed fibre mats or brush blankets) specifically for this purpose.
- Do not rush your planting; a little care will go a long way to ensuring good survival.

## How should I care for my plants after planting?

- Regularly walk through the planting area to monitor plant condition.

- Install some form of mulch To discourage competing vegetation from becoming established.
- Protect trees from girdling by rabbits and mice by installing tree guards.
- Water your plants regularly through the summer months.

