Planting a Tree Seedling with Shovel or Planting Bar
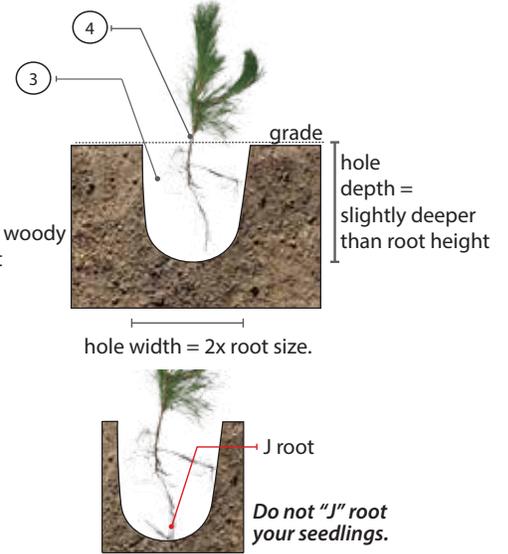
Planting with a Shovel

TOOLS

Gloves

Shovel

1. Contact Gopher State One-Call at 800-252-1166 before digging.

2. Brush aside loose organic material such as leaves and grass to expose soil.

3. Dig a hole twice as wide as the size of the roots and slightly deeper.

4. Place seedling in the hole. Make sure top of the first root is slighlty below the soil surface. Distribute the roots evenly, making sure the taproot is straight down. Avoid making a "J" root.

5. Pack the soil fimly around the roots. Make sure there are no air pockets.

NOTE: Keep seedlings in a cool, shaded, and protected place and keep roots damp until planting.
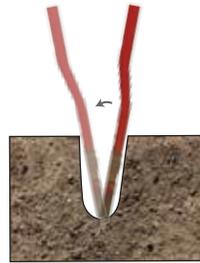
first woody root

grade

hole depth = slightly deeper than root height

hole width = 2x root size.

J root

Do not "J" root your seedlings.
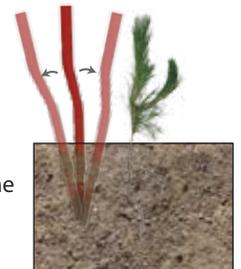
Planting with a Planting Bar

TOOLS

Planting Bars

Gloves

1. Follow steps one and two from above.

2. Drive blade into soil; move it back and forth to form a V-shaped hole. Make sure hole is deep enough for the roots to be fully extended. Avoid making a "J" root. (*See "J" root image above.*)

3. Insert seedling into hole. Set seedling vertically with top of first root slighly below soil surface.

4. Insert the bar into the soil 2 inches away from the planting hole. Pull the handle toward you, firming the soil at the bottom of the planting hole. This is important to prevent air pockets at the bottom of the hole.

5. Push handle toward seedling to firm soil at the top of planting hole.

6. Remove the bar and firmly pack the soil around seedling with your heel.

Mulching and Watering

TOOLS

Mulch

Watering Bucket

Hose

1. Water seedling well after planting and then a good soaking once a week.

2. Mulch around the seedling, keeping mulch 2-3" away from trunk.

3. Protect your seedling from lawn mowers and deer browsing by adding a cage or netting.

Note: Watering, mulching, and protecting trees may not be feasible for a large scale planting project.

Note: Check periodically to make sure that brush, grass and other vegetation is kept under control by mowing, mulching, spraying or a combination of these treatments.