



# LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION



The Simple Guide to ...

# Planting Tree Seedlings

2016

Planting trees has many benefits. Aside from helping tackle climate change, trees provide shelter, shade, privacy, and aesthetics to your property. This fact sheet was designed to give the average landowner some simple guidelines on successfully preparing, planting, and caring for your planting site. You can always contact us for more information.

## Preparing Your Site

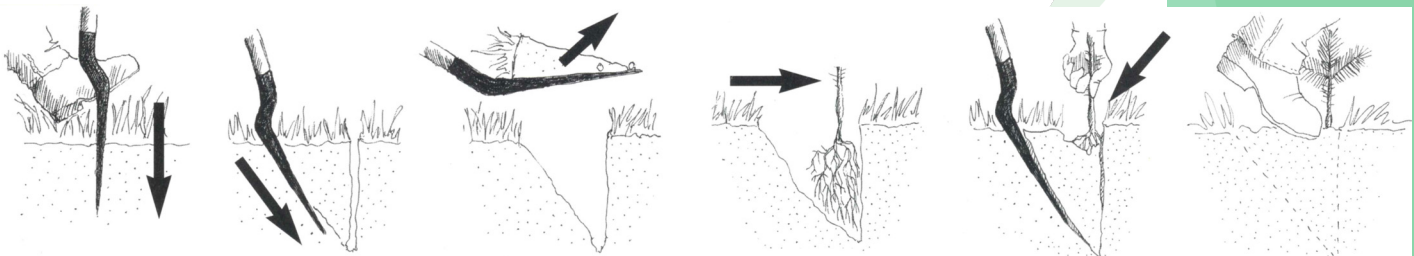
Make sure you choose the right tree for the soil type. Grass and weed control may be necessary before planting if vegetation is moderate to heavy, especially for deciduous trees.

## Tree Planting Tips

- Place the seedling as upright as possible, even on hills.
- Never leave roots exposed to the air, as they can dry out and die within minutes.
- Dig a deep enough hole to accommodate the roots spread out well and oriented straight up and down.
- The swelling that marks the transition between stem and roots (root collar) should be at ground level.
- Never bury the branches.
- Do not trim roots. Seedlings need every single tiny root.
- Pack the soil well, but don't over pack it. Press gently but firmly to prevent shocking the roots. Air pockets can kill roots.
- If you're planting more than one tree, don't put them too close together. Some types of trees require more space than others, so check with an expert if you aren't sure.

## Take care of those seedlings!

Seedlings can become stressed during transport from the nursery to the planting site. Sudden temperature changes, too little or too much water, and physical abuse can all damage a tree seedling. Avoid direct sunlight, and exposure to wind. Store seedlings in a cool dark place until ready to plant. Plant as soon as possible.



(LandOwner Resource Center and OMNR, 1995).

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Common tree species in the Lower Trent Conservation watershed region and their optimal site characteristics.

Soil Texture	Natural Drainage	
	Well to Moderate	Imperfect to Poor
sand	white pine red pine white cedar sugar maple red oak	white cedar tamarack willow
loam	white pine red pine white spruce white cedar sugar maple red maple butternut red oak black walnut bur oak	white cedar tamarack silver maple red maple willow
clay	white pine white cedar butternut red maple black walnut bur oak	tamarack silver maple willow

Objective	Species
Wildlife cover and food	fruiting shrubs, hemlock, red oak, black cherry, black walnut, butternut
Timber	red pine, white pine, red oak, sugar maple

## Caring for your seedlings

Depending on site conditions, the first three years in a tree's life are the toughest. To help your tree out in this critical time grass and weed control around seedlings may be necessary. Watering may also be required during dry hot summers. Contact us for more information.

**A \$100 tree in a \$0.10 hole**

New tree planters rarely consider soil conditions when planting. Some trees need specific site characteristics to survive. Some need moist soil, some dry, and some can thrive everywhere. It's important to know what kind of soil your property has before deciding to plant trees.

## Need some trees?

Many tree species listed on this fact sheet are available for sale as part of our Tree Seedling Program. For more information visit [www.ltc.on.ca](http://www.ltc.on.ca) or call Ewa at 613-394-3915 ext. 252.