



**BIG SIOUX NURSERY, INC.
16613 SIOUX CONIFER ROAD
WATERTOWN SD 57201**

CARE AND HANDLING OF STYRO PLUGS

1. **Extracted Seedlings:** Root balls will dry during cooler storage so plant as soon as possible.
 - a. Trees should be kept in the bags.
 - b. Inside the shipping boxes.
 - c. Inside a cooler.

2. **Seedlings in Styro blocks:** Do not put inside of a cooler. The seedlings have been outside and are already acclimated to the outside temperature.
 - a. Keep in a cool shady place before planting to help reduce drying. Under a tree or on the shaded north side of a building would be ideal storage locations.
 - b. Water your seedlings immediately after delivery, every couple of days thereafter as needed until planting, and immediately before planting.
 - c. Check your seedlings every day for soil moisture. A large seedling on a warm day can easily dry out the soil root ball. You can check for dryness of the trees in the styro blocks by pulling out one or two trees to inspect the root balls. When you put the tree back in the block, be sure to line up the grooves in the root plug with the grooves on the inside of the container.
 - d. Frequency of watering will depend on wind, air temperature, and humidity. When watering, provide a good soaking. Excess water will run out of the bottom of the blocks.

3. **Planting:** Again, plant as soon as possible.
 - a. Seedlings should be planted so the top of the root plug is 1/2" below the surface of the ground and is completely covered with native soil.
 - b. Firmly pack the soil around the seedling. None of the root plug should be exposed or it will dry out very quickly and the seedling will die.
 - c. Water thoroughly after planting if possible. Continue to water weekly for the first year unless there is abundant rainfall.
 - d. Keep weeds and grass away from the seedlings (at least one foot all around the tree) for the first several years.