



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

CARE AND HANDLING AT THE PLANTING SITE

Storage

- If cold storage cannot be provided at the planting site, only take enough seedlings for the days planting from cooler storage.
- On-site storage for a day can be improvised by parking the trailer in the shade or using a heat-reflective “space-tarp” (shiny side down) to protect the seedlings from heat and drying. Remember to move the trailer as the shade moves throughout the day.
- Do not remove seedlings from the on-site storage until they are to be placed in planting bags.

Handling and Planting

- Plant seedlings without further root or top pruning. If mold, dry roots, or dying is seen, immediately reported to the nursery.
- Do not handle frozen stock until it is completely thawed.
- When using planting bags, make sure no water has accumulated in the bag.
- Do not remove a tree from the planting bag until the planting hole has been open.
- Remove seedling gently from the planting bag, one at a time, to prevent root stripping or other injury, and quickly insert it in the planting hole.
- Seedlings carried in planting bags shall not exceed the amount that can be carried and removed without injury, or which can be planted before critical heating or drying occurs. Once trees are placed in bags, they must be planted and not returned to storage.
- Container trees should be placed vertically, with tops up, in planting bags. Do not overload planting bags. Do not double stack seedlings in planting bags, even if tops are only 6 to 8 inches.

Weather and Soil Hazards

- Seedlings must be protected from cold air as well as heat.
- Normally, it is not early morning frosts that damage trees right after planting, it is extended period of cold in the lower teens and twenties that cause problems.
- Do not plant during freezing temperatures, and do not expose roots to freezing temperatures during planting.
- Do not plant when there is still a chance of killing frosts or when soil temperatures are below 40 degrees Fahrenheit at rooting depth. Experience has shown that planting too early in the season can result in a high mortality rate. Adequate soil temperatures are needed for seedling to absorb soil moisture.
- Warm temperatures coupled with drying winds can damage trees by drying roots and tops. Watch seedlings closely for signs of root drying, and make sure soil is not drying before the holes can be closed.
- Make sure sufficient soil moisture is available
- Soil that is saturated also has an adverse affect on planting, as seedlings will suffocate due to a lack of air.

End of Day Trees

- Avoid having left-over trees by limiting the number taken from the cold storage facility at the beginning of the day.
- Discard trees if they have warmed.
- Do not return any trees that have been in planting bags.
- Plant trees that have been returned to the storage facility ASAP.
- It is key to take care of the plants as they are alive and if mishandled can die