

I Planted

Many of you have probably taken various spring days to get out and plant trees. You planted one tree in your back yard or 500 trees in a woodlot, these trees need post-planting

The two main reasons for seedling death are competition and insufficient moisture. Mulch around trees for moisture and nutrients. Trees should be removed from around trees for at least 2 years. A clean planting site will also reduce the risk of mice and gophers which can seriously damage seedlings. Insufficient moisture can be prevented by watering the trees well at planting and weekly during hot weather. Water long enough for water to penetrate the soil deeply. Stop watering a month before the average date of the first frost in the area.

Livestock, deer, elk, and a variety of other small animals can do considerable damage to seedlings. Fencing the entire planting area and using repellents, pesticides, and traps are ways to control animal damage.

Seedlings may be damaged by sun-scald. The main stems of young trees are suddenly exposed to sunlight. This can be prevented by wrapping the trunks with white, durable material, planting boards or plastic sun-shields against the tree on the south or southwest side and extending to the lower stem.

To protect taller trees from wind damage, use stakes or install guy-wires to each tree. Stake the tree in place while the root systems are developing. Encourage straight growth and good form by using guy-wires should be removed from the