

UI Extension Forestry Information Series

Checklist for Tree Planters

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Tree planting is a good way to bring a sparse stand up to full stocking, increase diversity, or achieve many other forest site goals. However, landowners often wait until a week or two before they want to plant trees, start planning far in advance (more if you want to hire a crew from grown). Here is a checklist to help you:

Ordering: If you have ordered your seedlings, your site will be ready in the preceding fall. If you learn too late that the seedlings are already sold out. Ordering in advance to insure you get the number of seedlings you need.

Animals: Do you have any? Gophers, deer, mice, and other animals often find tree seedlings to be a source of food. Have your neighbors or neighbors with these animals? Are you going to have any? If so, order tree shelters or other means to prevent damage to the seedlings.

Competition: Competition from grass, brush, or other plants can diminish the growth of new seedlings. There are several options to deal with this competition: mulching from mulch to herbicides. In some cases you may have to start controlling competition in the growing season before planting to avoid delay planting tree seedlings for another year.

Labor: If you have planted tree seedlings before, you know – tree planting is hard work! Do you have the time and energy to plant more than a few hundred seedlings?

up a contract with a tree planting crew. Some conservation districts work with reputable planting crews. You could also work with a consulting forester to choose and supervise a planting crew. Finally, you could find a crew yourself and work with them directly. In any event, make sure you have a very specific contract which spells out your expectations clearly.

The following publications will help you explore these and other tree planting issues in more detail. They are available through your local University of Idaho Cooperative Extension System Office.

- CIS 528 *Plant your container-grown seedlings right* (UI)
- EC 1192 *Contracts for woodland owners and Christmas tree growers* (OSU)
- MISC 18 A *guide to seedling selection* (UI)

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