

Planting & Plant Handling Guide

Updated
Summer 2017

Planting Bare Root Seedlings & Transplants

1. Dig a hole slightly larger than the size of the plant's root system.
2. Use sharp pruning shears to snip off any damaged roots or broken branch just above a bud.
3. Hold the tree so that the roots spread out naturally without being bent.
4. Holding the tree in the hole so that the original soil mark on the plant is at ground level, carefully back fill around the roots so that the tree stands straight.
5. Muddy in—gently settle the soil around the roots with water.
6. Smooth the soil around the plant and make a slight depression all around sloping toward the tree.
7. Make sure your plants stay moist, but not overly wet, in the days following planting. Thereafter, water weekly or as needed to prevent the roots from drying out. General rule of thumb... most plants like 1 inch of rain per week.
8. If fertilizing at planting time, use the **Amazing Tree-Gro™ Fertilizer Tablets** and then repeat every other year.



Growing Your Business Faster Since 1934

14731 Baldwin St.
West Olive, MI 49460-9708
616-399-1620
800-888-7337
www.vanspinesnursery.com
info@vanspinesnursery.com

Tips for Working With a/g JIFFY PLUGS

WE LIKE FRESH AIR!

Upon arrival do not store plugs in unopened cartons for more than 5 days. Closed cartons encourage mold growth on the tops unless plants are stored between 28° & 32°.

KEEP OUR SOCKS ON!

Do not 'mess' with the netting. It does not need to be removed and it will **NOT** interfere with root growth.

PULL THE BLANKET UP JUST RIGHT!

Plant plugs so that the netting is covered with 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil (no more)! If you plant deeper in heavy soils, you will kill the trees slowly over time as the crown line rots thus girdling the tree.

Transplanting Your a/g Jiffy Plugs!



We constructed our own 'dibble machine' for lining out a/g Jiffy Plugs in our Husky Transplant fields. The 8 row spacing is 5X5 in the row and 5 inches between the rows, set up like a staggered diamond-like pattern. Vans dibble machine was made from a 52 inch fuel drum by welding nuts to the outside of the drum & using carriage bolts to fasten PVC pipe to the drum.

Different diameters can be attached to prepare holes for different size plugs. Plugs are dropped into the holes, and covered lightly with 1/4 to 1/2 inch of soil so netting is no longer visible. Simple, quick & easy. Call for more details.

PLANTING BEACH GRASS

Rows of Beach Grass are always planted at a right angle to the prevailing winds.

The most common tool for planting is a transplanting spade with a 12 inch blade. The blade is driven about 10 inches into the sand and worked sideways to open a hole 2-3 inches across. The roots of the beach grass plant are then pressed down at least 8 inches deep. The sand is firmly tamped around the roots with the heel of a boot.

On steep hills, the blade of the spade is driven into the slope at a 90 angle. The blade is pushed upward and the beach grass plant is pressed into the hole while the hole is held open with the blade of the spade. After the plant is pressed into place, the spade is removed and the sand will settle down over the plant's root system.



DON'T FORGET—BEACH GRASS IS PERISHABLE!

Once bundled and packed, Beach Grass can heat & spoil in **2 days** if not cold stored.

BARE ROOT PLANTS

1 TAKE YOUR PLANTS TO A COOL AND SHADY AREA.

KEEP PLANTS AS COOL AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT FREEZING THEM!

2 OPEN PACKAGE IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL

- If paper packing material has settled, redistribute throughout the box. Packing material is added to maintain moisture and humidity levels in the box. Sufficient packing is added at the time of packing.
- Remoisten the roots and packing material and stand up in the box.
- Keep cool until you are ready to plant!

3 PLANT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MOISTURE IS EVERYTHING!

DO NOT ALLOW YOUR PLANTS TO DRY OUT!

Prepare a hole large enough to allow roots to be spread outward.

DO NOT WRAP OR TWIST ROOTS around themselves.

And... **DO NOT PLANT TOO DEEP.**

4 DO NOT attempt to store the trees in original package for more than 5 days.

CHECK PLANTS DAILY!

...ALL BOXES—DO NOT LET THEM DRY OUT!

'HEEL PLANTS IN'

If you will be unable to plant for a week or longer, and plants are not in cold storage.

- Dig a "V" shaped trench in a protected area.
- Place the flattened bundles in the trench with the tops upright.
- Pack dirt over the roots to seal out air.
- Keep the soil moist until ready to plant.