



Tips for Birch

Birch have a shallow root system that spread far. This makes them sensitive to even short periods of drought or heating of the soil. Therefore, try to place birch trees in locations where the soil will be shaded, cool, and moist. However, birch trees require full to partial sunshine on their leaves to grow well.

The challenge is to select a growing site where the soil will remain cool and moist, but where the tree will also receive full sunshine on its leaves for much of the day. Also, try not to plant too close to a building as the roots will need room to spread.

Excellent locations for placement of birch trees in the landscape generally are found on the east and north sides of a home where the building provides afternoon shade. Avoid southern exposures where the afternoon sun heats and dries the soil.

Tips for Spruce

Spruce trees can grow to be fairly large, therefore leave large spacing between other trees or structures.

Spruce like open areas. Spruce can also do well in shaded areas, so they are quite versatile.

Do not over-water spruce seedling as their roots can rot.



Box 4354
Hay River, NT
(867) 874-2009



Tree Seedling Planting Tips

Environment & Natural Resources

Tree Seedling Care

Thank you for your interest in planting trees and making your community a greener place. Trees offer many benefits such as absorbing carbon and pollution from our air, releasing oxygen, moderating temperatures and absorbing water. You'll also find many birds and wildlife will use your tree.

With the proper care and attention, your seedling should grow into a tree that offers many benefits throughout your lifetime and your children's lifetime.

How to Handle and Plant a Seedling

Seedlings should be planted as soon as possible after you receive them, however if you keep the roots moist and the trees cool you can delay planting for up to 7 days. One of the single most important things you can do to help ensure your seedlings will remain healthy is keep the roots moist and cool prior to and during planting.

The following points should be taken into consideration while planting your seedlings:

Location:

Find a spot that allows the tree enough room to grow in the future that is preferably sheltered from trampling or other damage.

Remove grass, weeds, or turf within at least a 4 inches radius (10 cm) of the planting hole.

The hole should be as deep as the roots in order to make sure the roots are straight and not J rooted. The hole only needs to be slightly wider than the root ball (rule of thumb is twice the width of the root ball width). The soil should be firmly compacted but not too compacted.

Watering:

Sufficient water is probably the single most important factor in maintaining a healthy tree. If rainfall is insufficient, watering may become necessary.

During the summer a slow, deep watering once per week is a general rule for maintaining adequate soil moisture. Laying a hose on the ground and allowing it to trickle slowly over the root zone is a very good technique for ensuring adequate watering.

The amount of water required will vary between tree species. Watering should be decreased by late August to allow for proper winterization of a tree.

Mulching:

Mulching helps moderate soil temperatures (keeps soil cool during summer heat), conserves water in the soil, reduces competition from other plants, adds organic matter to the soil as it decomposes, and reduces soil compaction.

Placing mulch around the base of a tree also reduces the likelihood of damaging the stem with a lawnmower or weed trimmer.

All these benefits create a healthy environment for tree roots, and help promote tree growth and survival.

