



How to Care for Your Tree

SASKATCHEWAN 
Tree for Life Program

Where to plant your seedling

The species you received are suited for the Saskatchewan environment. The ground these seedlings are planted in can affect their survival rate. Prep the landscape if you need to. Clear any weeds or invasive species that might threaten the seedling and take away the seedlings nutrients and water.

Willow: These species prefer areas where there is more water. They can act as stabilization through their root system. Willows can spread through suckering. The willows are native to Saskatchewan.

Poplars: Poplars can grow in urban areas. These poplars are non-invasive hybrids.

Spruce: This coniferous species is quite common and is a hardy tree that can grow in a variety of environments.

How to care for your seedling

If you cannot plant your seedling right away - no problem. Cover them with a tarp and keep them in a cool, moist area out of direct sun. It is important to make sure the seedlings have water - if the roots dry up, the seedling will die. You can keep your seedlings this way for a few days. However, the survival rate of the seedlings may decrease if you do not plant them fairly quickly.



How to plant your seedling

Planting seedlings does require a gentle hand and a bit of a learning curve. Ideally, you want a tree planting shovel, however a spade or regular shovel will work. Make sure you put the blade straight down into the ground and not on an angle. Move the shovel back and forth to allow a seedling to fit. Keep your shovel in the ground and gently place the seedling to one side of the shovel between the shovel and the soil. The roots of the seedling have to be straight down in the hole. Remove the shovel and gently stomp the ground to close the hole of the seedling further. You do not want to have any air bubbles by the root.

Things to avoid when planting your seedling

You do not want the seedling root to have a j-root. If this happens the hole was not deep enough and the root system went in wrong and formed a "J", the seedling won't survive. Make sure to close the gap of the shovel to seedling, to prevent water from drowning the tree.



Long-term care for your tree

Check on your seedlings often to see how they are doing. Water them if it has not rained in a while. Weed around the trees in the coming years and water if needed. Some of the seedlings may die and this is normal - it may be because the tree did not have enough nutrients or water, or it was planted incorrectly.