

Best Management Practices for Tree Survival

Handling

It is best to plant trees as soon as you receive them, however, this cannot always be done.

Cool shady conditions are ideal for tree storage.

Roots should be moist or in a moist substrate such as potting soil, shredded newspaper or wood chips. Roots require oxygen and should not be submerged in water for a prolonged amount of time. Likewise roots should not be allowed to dry out.

Planting Methods

The best time to plant a tree is April through May or September through October.

The tree should not be planted too deep or too shallow. This can cause stem rot.

The root collar (where the stem turns to roots) should be at the finished surface.

Good soil to root contact is important. Roots should be heeled for best contact.

Watering immediately after planting is ideal to remove unwanted air space in the soil around the roots.

Subsequent watering should only be done in really dry conditions to promote drought resilience and allow for roots to dive for water.

Tending

A healthy bucket of mulch sourced from your local leaf yard will help suppress weeds, retain moisture, and give your new tree a landscaped look. Mulching is a good tending habit and should be done a minimum of once per year.

Grass is usually a tree's worst enemy because it creates a thick sod that will absorb all the moisture in dry summer conditions. The main idea is to eliminate competition so the trees can develop at the maximum rate. After 3 to 4 years the trees should be well enough established to continue on their own.

Tree guards or some form of protection around the bottom of the stem will help resist rodent damage during winter months and may help deflect lawn maintenance machines from getting too close and damaging the stem.

For further information feel free to contact Lower Thames Valley staff at 519.354.7310