



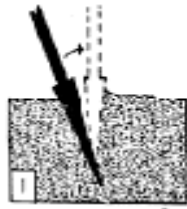
About the Kalamazoo Conservation District:

We are a governmental agency established in 1946, Kalamazoo Conservation District is an independent county level resource assisting Kalamazoo County residents resolve natural resource concerns. The district is self-funded, serving the public with revenue obtained through an annual tree and shrub fundraiser sale, grants, sponsorships, and donations.

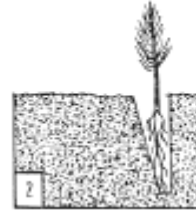
At KCD, we partner with federal and state agencies to coordinate and implement conservation and environmental programs throughout the community. We have capabilities in resource protection, development, and management.

As a result of the Dust Bowl in the 1920s from severe erosion due to negatively impacting farm practices, Congress established the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which directed money toward programs that would help protect natural resources and empower landowners to become better stewards of the land. But with no delivery approach for the federal programs, Congress realized that a local level organization was needed to help promote conservation programs available to agricultural landowners. Thus, a Conservation District Law was established, allowing communities to elect their own county conservation district boards, which would partner with the federal agencies and serve as the storefront and information center for available conservation programs and assistance.

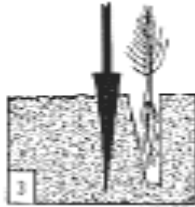
There are many ways to efficiently plant bare root seedlings. Here is one way using a planting bar.



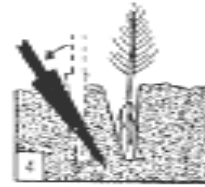
1 Insert bar at 45-degree angle. Push forward to upright position.



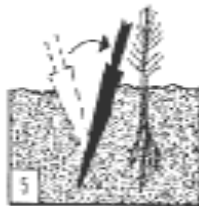
2 Remove bar and place seedling at correct depth.



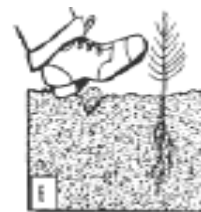
3 Hold seedling at correct depth, insert bar 3 inches from seedling.



4 Pull bar handle forward to close hole at bottom of roots.



5 Push bar handle forward to close hole at top of roots.



6 Stomp with heel to fill in the last hole.



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Care and Planting of Tree Seedlings



**Kalamazoo Conservation
District
5950 Portage Rd
Portage, MI 49002**

Phone: 269.775-3368
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Care of bare-root seedlings after pick-up:

- Your seedlings have been recently bundled in wet moss and should do well for a few days until planting if kept in a cool dark place, out of wind and sun.
- Make sure roots are never allowed to dry but not soaked enough to grow mold.
- If you are not planting immediately, check moss for moistness and bundle tightly to avoid air from drying roots.
- Do not soak your plants in a bucket of water. Besides washing off bacteria beneficial to their growth, this will drown the plant by depriving it of oxygen.
- If you are unable to plant soon, consider “healing” your seedlings in. Dig a ditch in a protected area and plant seedlings 4-6” apart. When transplanting, be sure to plant with soil. Bare-root seedlings should only be moved or planted when dormant.

How to plant a bare-root seedling:

- Choose the site according to soil appropriate to the species and sun/shade requirements.
- Keep the roots covered and moist until planting.
- Dig hole large enough so roots can spread in a natural position without curling. Any excessively long roots can be trimmed back.
- Never put a concentrated fertilizer in the hole with the plant or any place it can touch the roots unless the manufacturer specifies so, such as with slow-release tablets. Slow-release tablets can be used for bare-root seedlings and transplants.
- If using a planting bar (see instructions on other side of this brochure), move the bar back and forth in the ground several times to create a hole large enough to accommodate tree roots.
- Pack soil firmly around roots and add water if soil is dry. Make sure to leave no air pockets that would allow roots to dry out. Leave slight depression to collect water or rain.

Care of seedlings after planting:

- All seedlings and transplants under three years should be mulched in the fall with clipping, straw, or leaves. Prevent grass, weeds, or other vegetation from crowding the seedling to prevent competition for moisture and nutrients.
- If you use a liquid or granular fertilizer, seedlings, transplants, and all bare-root stock should not be fertilized until second year after planting, when feeding roots are established. If using liquid, granular or pellet type fertilizer, apply sparingly until plant reaches a size of at least 15 to 18 inches.
- Over and under watering are some of the main causes of seedling death.
- Let trees dry out between watering as this encourages roots to grow down in search of moisture resulting in a hardier seedling.



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