

Proper site preparation is the key to your tree seedlings success! Tree seedlings require four basic elements to grow: Water, Nutrients, Sunlight, and Space. Site preparation should begin in the summer or fall, prior to next year’s spring planting. Providing seedlings with favourable growing conditions ensures greater growth rates and establishment success. Seedlings planted by SCRCA have a 90% success rate when properly managed.



- ⇒ Bean stubble provides the best planting conditions.
- ⇒ **Remove vegetative competition** by mowing and/or spraying prior to planting. Surrounding grasses and weeds will compete with your seedlings for water, nutrients, sunlight, and space.
- ⇒ **Do not cultivate!** Weed seeds in the soil can remain dormant for many years and can germinate at any time, especially after cultivation when conditions are right.

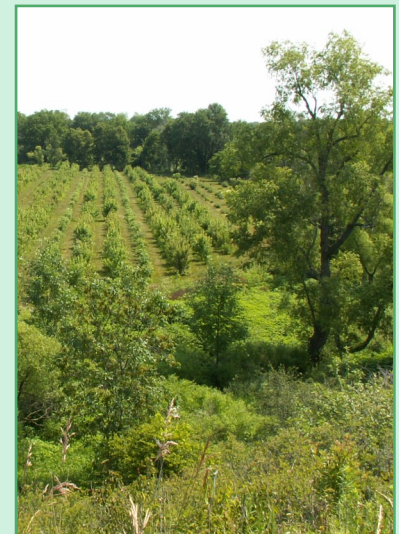
Fall Site Preparation

Pervious Crop/Use	Bush Hog	Mow	Spray	Cultivate
Soybean				No
Corn	Fall x1			No
Winter Wheat			Fall or Spring	No
Pasture/Grassland		Fall x2	Fall and Spring	No

Glyphosate or a glyphosate 2,4-D mixture are recommended. All Pesticides must be used in accordance with requirements under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 63/09.

Landowners are responsible for staking and preparation of the planting site.

- ⇒ **Windrows:** stake the location for the first row of trees and property line.
- ⇒ **Plantation:** stake at least four corners of the area to be planted.



Trees cannot be planted if the site has not been prepared according the tree planting plan.



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The main threats to young trees and shrubs:

- ⇒ Browsing (deer will eat young branches and buds thus damaging next year's growth)
- ⇒ Girdling (rodents damage bark around the trunk which stops plant phloem resulting in tree mortality)
- ⇒ Competition (Vegetation around trees can be allelopathic, reducing tree growth rates and survival)
- ⇒ Disease, fungus and insect problems
- ⇒ Drought and extreme temperatures



Sapling girdled below the surface.

Photo: Curbstone Valley Farm



Sapling girdled by meadow voles.

Photo: W. Lord (NHgruitgrowers)

SCRCA's Tree Seedling Maintenance Program

SCRCA's licensed pesticide applicators will provide a vegetation control regime for newly planted sites. The program uses an integrated pest management strategy using herbicides to control weeds in the tree rows when necessary, combined with landowner involvement and the use of other vegetation control and/or rodent control methods.

One application of pre-emergent herbicide is applied to the tree rows immediately at the time of planting followed by the same treatment for the next 3 years. After discussion between staff and the landowner a follow-up application of a non-selective herbicide may occur in the fall when the trees are dormant in order to eradicate more difficult to control weeds and grasses.

Why mow AFTER planting?

It is important to mow between tree rows 3 to 5 times during the growing season. Mowing is important for multiple reasons:

Rodent control

- Heavy vegetation provides habitat for rodents that girdle (eat the bark off) young seedlings, decreasing the chances of growth and survival.

Competition

- Surrounding grasses and weeds will compete with your seedlings for nutrients, water, sunlight, and space.
- Mowing will limit the production and spread of weed seeds.

This is a general guide, please follow site-specific recommendations in your tree planting plan.



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