



Basic Planting Tips

Choose species that are appropriate for the growing conditions that are available. Take into account size restriction, sun exposure, water availability and maintenance.

Basic Seeding and Stand Establishment Tips:

- Always follow seeding timing recommendations to have the best germination conditions for native seeds.
- Seed beds should be firm but not hard to insure good seed to soil contact.
- Control weed problems before planting. Clean, weed-free seed beds before planting will save time and labor later.
- In general, seeds should be planted at a depth twice their diameter.
- Moist (not wet) conditions are necessary for seed germination. Water lightly to maintain an appropriate moisture level within the top 1/2" of soil.
- Remember to calibrate seeding equipment before every use to insure accurate seeding rates.
- When broadcasting seed by hand or with small equipment, it is best to divide the seed into two sections. Spread the first half in one direction over the entire area. Going the opposite direction, spread the second half of the seed. This often results in a more even application and prevents you from running out of seed before you are finished.
- Young stands generally require more care and attention than mature stands.
- If not sowing seed immediately, store seed in a cool, dry place.

Basic Plant Establishment Tips:

- If storing plants prior to planting, place in a protected spot, preferably with partial sun. Water daily or when soil surface is dry to touch.
- Plant in a site that matches the needs of the plants, with appropriate exposure and moisture levels.
- When preparing the planting site, remove weeds from the area to reduce competition. Use a shovel or other appropriate digging implement to make the planting hole. Avoid digging in wet soil that compacts easily, since a compacted soil wall will prevent roots from penetrating the surrounding soil.
- Dig the planting hole wider than the root mass of the plant but not deeper. This prevents the plant from sinking too deep. It is also important that the plants does not rest higher than the surrounding soil. The top surface of the rooted plant should be level with the surrounding soil.
- Water plant thoroughly after planting and then periodically for establishment the first year. The watering frequency will depend on soil type and conditions.
- Fertilizer and soil amendments are not necessary in most cases.
- Score the roots if they are thick to encourage penetration into the soil.