How to Stake and Tie Newly Planted Trees

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Should Newly Planted Trees be Staked?

– It is important for trees to experience movement caused by the wind so they can develop properly.

– It is necessary to hold trees upright with stakes until adequate root growth has occurred to secure them in the soil.

– It is important that the stakes be installed properly to prevent tree damage.
Newly Planted Trees Damaged by Ties

Never use bare wire or cord as a tie material because it is likely to cut into the bark and damage the essential food and water conducting tissues beneath.
When to Stake Trees

- Trees that are exposed to strong winds.
- Trees that are in open sites.
- Tall trees with small root balls.
  • Without support in these situations, trees may become tilted and movement of the root ball in the planting hole may damage the tree's fine, absorbing roots.
Tying Newly Planted Trees

• It is best to use a flexible material for stakes that support the top but also allow some natural movement of the stem.
• The material used to attach the tree to the stake should be broad, smooth, and somewhat elastic.
Tying Newly Planted Trees

• The stakes should be tall enough to keep the tree upright but not so high that the top of the tree bends above the tie point.
• The ties should be taut but not so tight that the tree is inhibited from moving.
Proper Methods of Staking and Tying

Two stakes should be used with one on each side of the tree.

- The stakes should be placed on the outside the root ball for maximum support and to avoid damaging the root ball.
- The tree should be tied with a figure eight loop between the tree and the stake.
- The greatest advantage of staking trees is that the staking material provides a barrier to physical damage of the tree trunk.
When to Remove Stakes

– The stakes should be removed as soon as possible, usually after one growing season.

– Leaving the stakes as trunk guards may be useful as long as they don't pose a hazard.
Newly Planted Trees with Signs of Stewardship

- Trees with signs of stewardship have significantly lower mortality rates and greater rates of growth than those without.