

How to Stake and Tie Newly Planted Trees

Arthur Simpson

Senior Forester

Central Forestry, Horticulture and
Natural Resources

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.



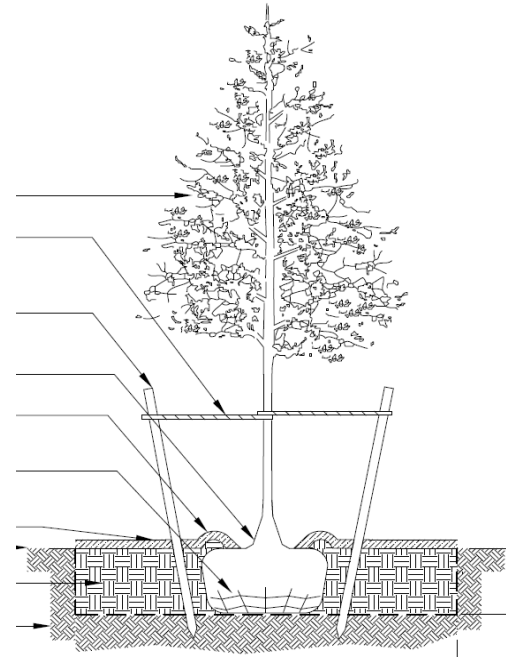
Newly Planted Trees Damaged by Ties



- 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.