

Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District Newsletter

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Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday
of each month at 8:30 AM
Board of Directors: Fred Croscut, Jay Gould,
Bruce Kidder, Allen Peterson, Lisa Vanstrom



SWCD Staff: David Spann, District Field Manager
Cassandra Pinkoski, Grant Specialist
Greg Kolenda, District Field Technician
Melissa Mee, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

NRCS Jamestown Office Staff:
Robert Nothdurft, Resource Conservationist
Anna Emke-Walker, Soil Conservationist

How to Properly Plant a Bare Root Tree

While the descriptions for each species listed in the Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District's tree and shrub catalog can help you select the perfect tree for your specific location, proper planting is critical to get your tree off to a good start. Considering that tree and shrub orders will be distributed on April 23rd and 24th, now is a good time to make your selection and think about how to plant your bare root tree seedlings.

Bareroot plants are one- to three-year-old nursery stock that are harvested, stored, and shipped without soil or potting mix surrounding their roots. Bareroot plants are typically inexpensive, easy to plant and offer field grown hardiness. They are an excellent choice for many hardwoods and conifers used in conservation applications such as windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, buffers, riparian channel stabilization, reforestation programs, wildlife enhancements and more.

To ensure seedling survival, follow these steps. First, the seedlings must be stored properly prior to planting, ideally between 33 to 35°F, 95% plus relative humidity, in a wind protected and shaded area with the roots moist. Keep roots covered with moist (not saturated) peat moss or shredded paper until directly before planting. Conversely, never leave seedlings in standing water.

Carefully choose the planting site. Trees are difficult to successfully move once they become established. There is the adage "The best days for planting are the worst days for the planter". If possible, plant on cloudy, cool, humid days; avoiding sunny, dry, and windy conditions or when the roots risk freezing. Plant your seedlings as quickly as possible after order pick-up and be sure to keep roots covered and always protected. Please note that conifers are particularly sensitive to drying out.

After deciding on the location in which you will plant, prepare a hole two times wider and slightly deeper than the seedling's root system. Holes too narrow or too shallow can compromise seedling's success. Place the seedling in the hole, holding the plant vertical with the root collar (interface of root and stem) at or just below the surface grade. While holding the seedling in place, backfill the hole, filling up to the root collar or slightly below grade.

To remove any air pockets, saturate the planting. If settling occurs, add more soil. During drought years, water the tree generously every week to ten days during the first year. If you are in an area where animal damage regularly occurs or a place that is not easily maintained, providing tree protection with the use of tree tubes will enhance survival. Tree mats are an excellent option for conifer transplants and seedlings. The mats control weeds that would otherwise compete for moisture, nutrients, and sunlight. Tree tubes, tree mats, posted signs, fertilizer pellets, barley straw pond kits, berries, conservation seed mixes and shrubs are also available in the catalog.

The deadline to order fruit trees is March 12th and the deadline for the remainder of the catalog is April 1st. Visit <https://soilwater.org/annual-tree-shrub-sale/> to download a catalog, order form and curbside pick-up instructions. Paper copies of the catalog can be requested at no cost by phone.

Native to NY
Native to Chautauqua County

PAW PAW (*Asimina triloba*), an unusual tree with large leaves and tiny banana-shaped fruit. Shade tolerant, grows in moist soils on floodplains. Can live 100 to 150 years. Reaches 20 to 30 feet in height. An understory tree with straight branches and a broad crown. Found in the southern half of New York, where it is at its northernmost range. Produces a green berry-like fruit that turns yellow to brown or black at maturity with a soft edible flesh, prune like texture and fruity custard flavor. Fruit was eaten by American Indians and early settlers.

PW 10 plants for \$25.00
25 plants for \$53.00
50 plants for \$95.00
100 plants for \$175.00

Source: USDA NRCS Plant Materials Program

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