



Creating a Riparian Buffer: Tree Planting

Where?



Riverbanks and lakesides



Steep Slopes



Open fields that have degraded soils

How?

Planting the trees for a riparian buffer can be very easy. The only tool required is a **shovel** to dig the hole.

The hole should be about **twice as wide as the root ball** and one inch deeper. Once the hole has been dug, simply place the root bundle of the tree into the hole and fill the hole back up with the soil that you removed from the area.



Pack down the soil so that the wind does not blow over the newly planted tree, but leave some air holes in the soil so that **water can still drain through** it. A good way to do this is by gently stepping on the newly placed soil.

Maintenance?

Watering the tree properly is very important. Right after planting, pour about **4 to 5 gallons** of water at the tree base, depending on when it last rained and how wet the soil is during the planting.

About an hour after planting, come back and water the tree again until the **soil is saturated, but not overflowing**. Watering should be continued once a week, unless it rains heavily, for the first year.

If it is in a **high wind** area, tying stakes to the tree can help it from blowing over or growing at an angle.



Helpful Hints!



- Plant in the **early Spring or Fall** so the trees will not get stressed from the heat and die.
- **Put mulch** 2 to 3 inches away from the tree to keep weeds from growing and help water flow. Be careful not to put it too close to the tree or it will start to rot.
- **Do not use commercial fertilizer** because it will cause the tree to over-exert itself and do worse in the long-run.