



## How to Plant Small Tree Seedlings (Bare-Root or Potted Container)

- 1. If you have a *container* tree seedling**, gently lift the seedling and its dirt/root base out of the container. Flexing the pot, if possible, can help. Then gently loosen the soil that's around the roots.
- 2. Dig a hole in the ground that's approximately **twice the depth and 1'-2' wide****, depending on the size of the seedling.
- 3. If your seedling has a network of roots**, make a 'cone' of loose soil in the base of the hole. **If the seedling has a central taproot with a few smaller roots**, you do not need the cone.
- 4. Place the seedling so that:**
  - the roots lie on and around the cone of soil, if using the cone;
  - the root crown of the seedling is **at or slightly above** the level of the soil surrounding the hole; and
  - the seedling is vertical and straight.
- 5. Put the rest of the soil gently over the roots and fill the hole.**
- 6. Place hands on the soil and gently firm the soil all the way around the seedling. **This is important!**** You are pushing excess air out of the planting hole to protect the roots, making sure that the seedling will root well and stay straight.
- 7. Mulch around the seedling to a diameter of 2-3 feet. Be generous. Five inches of depth is fine. To ensure the mulch does not touch the base of the seedling, which can cause rot), leave a few inches between the seedling and the mulch circle.**
- 8. To prevent small critters (rabbits, squirrels, etc.) from eating parts of the seedling during its first few vulnerable years, securely mount a cylindrical wire cage or plastic 'blue' tube around the seedling using one or more stakes or bamboo rods.**
- 9. Water the planted seedling generously right away.**

You're done! **Congratulations!**

Need more help? Or want to help us plant & protect local trees/forests? Please reach out to us by using our contact form at <https://whatcommilliontrees.org> Thanks!