

The Connect to Protect Network:

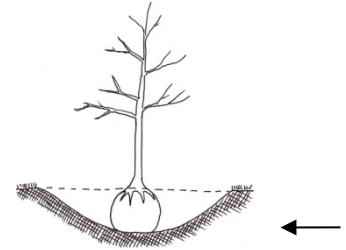
General instructions for planting and maintaining your pine rockland plants

Planting location

To select an appropriate location for planting you should know something about the plant you're working with. How big will it get, and what are its light and water requirements? A great resource to answer these questions is the Natives for Your Neighborhood website from The Institute for Regional Conservation: <http://www.regionalconservation.org/beta/nfyn/plantlist.asp>. Be sure to avoid planting under power lines or too closely to buildings. Always call 811 before digging if you are unsure about underground utility lines on your property.

Planting

Dig a hole large enough to bury the entire root ball. Always remove the pot before planting. Place plant into the hole and fill soil around the root ball. Firmly press the soil around the plant to ensure it is stable and will remain upright. Make sure all roots are covered, yet avoid planting too deeply. You never want the trunk of your plant to be covered with soil or mulch.



Appropriate soil level
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Watering

To ensure survival your plants will need to be watered until they are established. Once they are established you should not have to water again except during times of drought. During establishment, the following schedule is recommended. **Week 1-3:** water every other day; **Week 4-8:** water every third day; **After week 8:** water once a week or when you see wilting leaves. After 6 months your plants should be established. You may need to continue watering for up to one year. Wilting leaves are the easiest way to tell your plant needs water.

Mulching

Mulch is a helpful tool when used correctly. It can be used to suppress weeds, hold moisture in soil, and add to the aesthetics of your yard. A layer of 2-3 inches around the recently planted area is all that's necessary. Do not mulch up to the base of the plant or cover the trunk, it can adversely affect the health of your plant. Always select mulch that comes from a sustainable source. Eucalyptus mulch is more sustainable than cypress. Red mulch leaches chemicals and should be avoided.

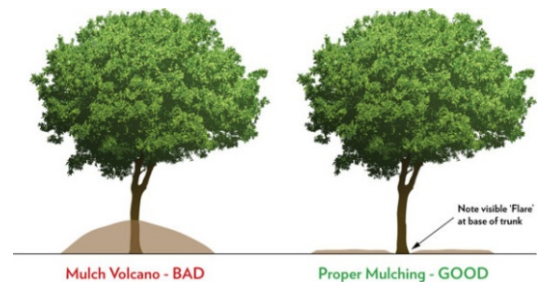


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Pruning

Some pruning may be necessary to remove dead leaves or branches and to keep plants from getting too large. For grasses and herbs we suggest only removing dead leaves and stems. Shrubs can be cut back 6 inches, several times a year to maintain a certain height. Most native trees will not require much pruning. Start with branches that are crossing. Trees should never be hat raked.