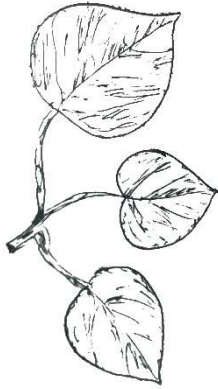


Tree Identification

Deciduous Trees

Quaking aspen - Aspen leaves are round to heart shaped. Their bark is smooth, white to gray, sometimes with a green tint. Bark becomes furrowed with age.



Coniferous Trees

Pinyon pine - Usually has needles $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long in groups of 2. Cones are rough and small, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches long.

Ponderosa pine - Needles grow in groups of 2 or 3 and are long, 3 to 7 inches. Cones are 3 to 5 inches long and have spines that are prickly to touch.

Engelmann spruce - Needles are spiky, square, and grow 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Cones are 2 inches long with papery scales.

Blue spruce - Needles are similar to Engelmann spruce but less flexible and more blue. It prefers more moisture. The Colorado state tree.

Douglas fir - Needles are soft, flat, and grow 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Cones hang down and have bracts sticking between the scales. A popular Christmas tree.

Rocky Mountain juniper - Needles are flat and scale-like. Modified cones resemble pea-sized berries. The bark is furrowed with ridges and shreds peeling off.

Transplant Permit

You must follow the conditions on your permit.

- All transplant permits sold are for personal use.
- \$5.00 per tree is charged for conifers and aspens (minimum of 4 trees, \$20).
- Limit of 10 trees per household per year.
- Trees cannot be dug within 100 feet of developed sites such as campgrounds and picnic areas.
- All holes must be filled in.
- Trees up to a maximum of 10 feet in height may be dug.
- Trees cannot be dug along the following scenic byway corridors:
 - Silverthread Scenic Byway (Hwy 149) between South Fork and Lake City.
 - Conejos River Canyon (Forest Rd 250) between Fox Creek and Platoro.
 - Alamosa River Canyon (Forest Rd 250) between Terrace Reservoir and Stunner Campground.

Call or visit your local Rio Grande National Forest office.

Divide District
719-657-3321

Conejos Peak
District
719-274-8971

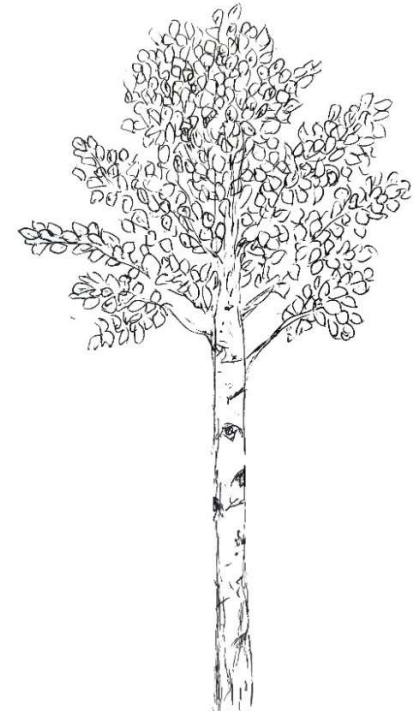
Creede Office
(summer only)
719-658-2556

Saguache District
719-655-2547

Information for this brochure was compiled from the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension, the Colorado State Forest Service, the Rio Grande National Forest, the San Juan Mountains Association, and the Clemson Cooperative Extension.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider,
employer, and lender.

Tree Transplant Information



RIO GRANDE NATIONAL FOREST



Caring for the Land and Serving People

This is an informational supplement.
You must follow the conditions of your permit.

Tips for Digging Your Tree

Smaller trees will have a better chance of being successfully transplanted.

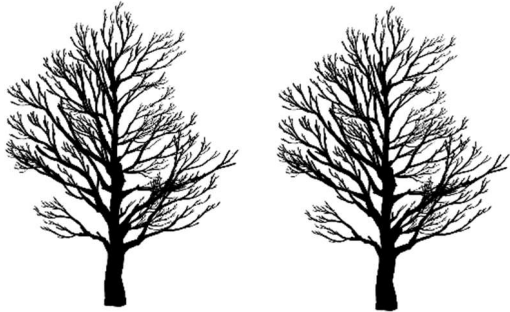
Dig around the tree and then down at an angle to dig under the tree. Trees should be dug with as much root system as possible. Keep in mind a big ball of soil 15 inches in diameter may weigh over 200 pounds.

A sharp spade will help cut roots and prevent extra damage to the roots.

Wrap the roots or root ball in wet cloth or burlap. The tree can also be placed in a bucket or container. It is very important that the roots don't dry out.

Protect branches during transportation by wrapping them up or make sure they are bending the same direction as the wind.

Keep trees moist and cool if not planting immediately.



Season for Transplanting

It is best to plant trees in the early spring when there is warmth and water for roots to grow. Trees can also be planted in late fall or early winter when they are dormant. They can be stressed by dry winter conditions.

Tips for Planting Your Tree

Trees should be planted as soon as possible.

Locate a site for your tree that provides enough space for it to grow throughout its life. Remember it will grow above and below ground!

Before digging call 811 or visit colorado811.org.

Prepare the planting area by loosening the soil around it.

Dig your hole at least as wide but only as deep as the root ball. Don't force roots in a limited space or allow them to wrap around themselves.

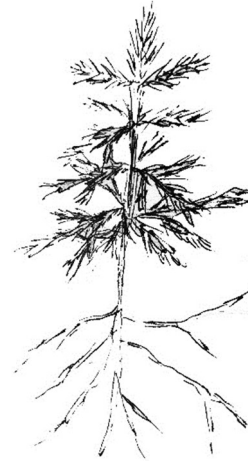
Plant the tree so the root collar (where the tree's trunk meets the roots) is slightly above the surrounding area. Gently separate any tangled roots.

Orient your tree so that the marker you tied on is facing the same direction as where you took it from.

Fill the hole with soil. Do not pack the soil.

Water the tree to let the soil settle naturally.
Mulch the area around the tree to help protect it, reduce water loss, and prevent grass and weeds growing. Avoid mulch near the tree trunk.

Stake the tree only if necessary. Use something stretchy to allow the tree to bend in the wind. Remove after 6 months.



Tips for Caring for Your Tree

Watering deeply and infrequently is better than frequent shallow watering. This keeps roots growing deeper in the soil.

Mulch your tree to help reduce water loss and keep the soil temperature warmer for longer in the fall.

Test your soil before applying fertilizer. Soil tests can be obtained from the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Tips for Conifers

For most successful transplanting, trees should be no more than 3 feet tall. The suggested root ball size is 18 inches for a 3-4 inch diameter trunk.



Tips for Aspens

Aspens 5-7 feet are often the healthiest trees for transplanting. Dig a root ball 6 inches in diameter plus 3-4 inches for every inch in diameter of the trunk. Dig at least 15 inches deep for any size tree.

Aspens do not have the long tap roots that evergreens have, so depth is not as important as making sure you have enough of the lateral root.

Dig aspens before they leaf out in the spring or after they lose their leaves in the fall.

To learn more visit:

extension.colostate.edu
csfs.colostate.edu/forests-plains-tree