

# PLANT SPECIFICATIONS

The Forest Service specifies the standard of tree required for a particular site. These specifications include

- Age
  - Height
  - Root Collar Diameter
- Generally smaller plants are used in exposed areas while on sheltered, fertile sites a bigger plant is preferred.



Trees must be purchased from an approved nursery with a Declaration of Provenance Form and a Certificate of Provenance showing the origin of the tree seeds.



## Farm Forestry Series No.6

### Forestry Planting Stock - Quality and Handling





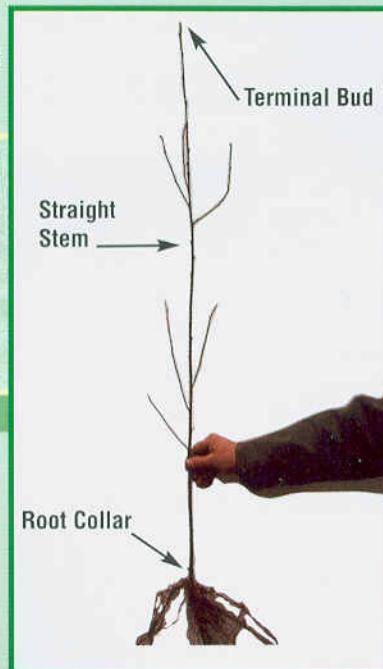
# PLANT QUALITY TREES TO ENSURE GOOD CROP ESTABLISHMENT

A **quality** plant which is **handled** and **planted** properly will survive and grow well in the forest.

## Plant Quality

Ensure that the plant has a:

- ☞ healthy terminal bud
- ☞ definite leader
- ☞ sturdy root collar
- ☞ fibrous root system



## Avoid Poor Quality trees

- ☞ forked leaders.
- ☞ defoliated/dead branches
- ☞ small/light trees
- ☞ j shaped root systems

# PLANT STORAGE

Plants are normally sold from the nursery as bare rooted stock in open bundles or in light-reflecting bags (black inside and white outside - "co-extruded").

- ☞ If bagged plants are not being planted immediately they must be stored in a cool shaded area;
- ☞ Don't pile bags on top of each other, store them upright;
- ☞ Plants should not be left in bags for more than three weeks following delivery;
- ☞ If planting is delayed trees should be removed from bags and placed in trenches, covering the roots with soil;
- ☞ Always check plant quality before accepting delivery from the nursery;
- ☞ Ensure that the bags contain the correct number of trees and the grade specified;
- ☞ Check that plants have not heated in the bags.





## TRANSPORT

On larger sites plants are distributed by tractor throughout the site to facilitate the planters. Roughly handled trees will result in plant failures and damaged trees.



### **Avoid:**

- ❑ Crushing plants in bags
- ❑ Throwing bags
- ❑ Breaking plant leaders and terminal buds

## PLANTING

Planting method is determined by the species, root size, cultivation type, and the soil type being planted. All methods require that roots are spread evenly in the soil to facilitate good root development.

### **Ensure quality planting:**

- ❑ Plant straight from bags without damaging young trees;
- ❑ Exposed root hairs will lead to drying out of roots;
- ❑ On mounds place trees into the best soil available.



Poor planting; exposed roots

## CORRECT PLANTING TECHNIQUES

- ❑ Plant tree to the right depth (root collar just below ground level);
- ❑ Make sure that tree is planted as upright as possible;
- ❑ Firm in properly without compacting roots too tightly;
- ❑ If trees loosen over time, straighten and re-firm;
- ❑ Position roots with hands into the ground;
- ❑ Don't force roots into the ground with spade.



## OPTIMUM PLANTING TIMES

- ❑ The optimum time for the planting of broadleaves is November and December;
- ❑ Larch, which flushes early, should be planted before mid-February;
- ❑ Spring planting is best for most other species;
- ❑ Trees should not be planted into frozen ground;
- ❑ The planting season can be extended by using either cold stored or containerised stock.

