



NEW YORK  
STATE OF  
OPPORTUNITY

Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



## Trees for Tribes

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# Guide to Planting Your Trees and Shrubs



Thank you for volunteering to plant native trees and shrubs with the Trees for Tribes program. This guide will explain what to do with your plants and other materials to give them the best start in their new location.

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## What Do Weed Mats Do?

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Weed mats keep other plants from growing too close to your newly planted trees and shrubs. Fast-growing weedy plants can consume water and nutrients in the soil before a tree or shrub becomes established. Weed mats work by blocking sunlight from plants that try to grow underneath them, and mats, like mulch, keep the soil moist.

Weed mats are designed to break down over time. In a few years, they will disappear, and grasses and herbs can be allowed to grow in the space between your trees and shrubs.









## Why Use Tree Tubes?

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Tree tubes protect trees, giving young trees a chance to grow by preventing deer from browsing on their bark and leaves. Tubes installed flush to the ground can also prevent mouse damage.

Tree seedlings in tubes often grow faster than seedlings without tubes. When tree tubes are regularly checked and maintained, they can significantly improve the survival of young trees.







## Watering Plants

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After you have finished planting your trees and shrubs, water them until the surrounding soil is moist but not soggy.

If you expect very dry weather, plan to water your plants every two weeks.

To determine whether you need to water, dig a hole three or four inches deep near one of your plants. If the soil in the hole is dry, you should water.





