

Red/Norway Pine



Tree Type

This tree is an evergreen and will keep its foliage year-around.

Planting

Refer to back for best planting practices for your bareroot.

Watering

The tree can struggle with heat and humidity. Refer to back for specific watering directions.

Pruning

This is a high maintenance tree that requires regular care and upkeep. Remove excess lateral branches during the vigorous growth period based on needs, focusing on encouraging the trunk to grow tall and straight. Cut off any diseased or dead branches right away, so as to prevent the spread of pathogens.

Preferences

The Red pine grows best in well-drained, loose and slightly acidic sandy to loamy soil. It will even grow in barren landscapes. This tree really dislikes heavy, wet soils and will die in standing water. It will not tolerate urban pollution. The tree is somewhat shade tolerant but prefers at least 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight each day.

Attributes

Red pines are large, stately trees that reach heights of 60 to nearly 150 ft with a spread of 30 to 40 ft at maturity. Their trunks are straight and uniform and may grow to 5 ft in diameter. Young trees will be pyramidal in shape and if growing in close proximity to other trees, the shade will cause the lower branches will fall away to form a rounded head on the top. Without competition for sunlight, the canopy is rather low, around 4 ft from the ground. The root system is deep and wide spreading, allowing the tree to become the dominant species of where it is planted.

Wildlife Value

Red pine is generally considered poor habitat for game birds and animals, but bald eagles and many songbirds use old-growth trees as nesting sites.

When newly planted trees go without enough water, growth slows to a crawl. This delays establishment and may even lead to the death of leaves, branches, roots or the whole tree.

For the most part, trees can only take up water from soil that is in direct contact with roots. Even in the best conditions, newly transplanted trees use water from a relatively small volume of soil. To make matters worse, roots of bare root, balled & burlaped, and spaded trees are cut during transplanting.

Within two to three days after spring or summer planting, the soil around the roots of trees dries enough to impede root growth. Newly transplanted trees in the Midwest benefit from daily watering for the first one to two weeks. Apply 1 to 1½ gallons of water for each inch of trunk diameter. After that, water trees every two to three days for the next two to three months and then weekly until established. The more closely you match your watering frequency to the optimum, the quicker trees become established.

Reduce watering in cool, cloudy, or wet weather if the soil is poorly drained (soil drains less than 3/4 inches per hour). Eliminate daily irrigation in poorly drained soil.

After it rains, stop watering until the rainwater drains from the soil. Stop watering in the autumn once leaves fall from trees.

Mulch reduces evaporation and conserves water. An investment in frequent watering helps insure against tree death and the cost of replanting trees.

BEFORE PLANTING

Select the correct tree for your site.
Find help at mndnr.gov/treecare.

Before digging, contact Gopher State One Call at 800-252-1155 or gopherstateonecall.org to check for underground lines.

AFTER PLANTING

Mulching

Applying mulch, such as wood chips, around a tree has many benefits, including:

- Improving growing conditions
- Retaining moisture
- Controlling weeds and grasses
- Adding nutrients
- Insulating soil
- Protecting trunk and roots

Mulch that is applied too deeply and against the tree is harmful. This "mulch volcano" can rot the tree's trunk, lead to insect and disease problems, and deprive roots of oxygen. Use the "3-3-3 Rule" for applying mulch: 3 feet in diameter, 3 inches deep, and 3 inches away from the trunk.

Watering

Watering a tree is critical to its survival during the first three years. During any week in which less than 1 inch of rain falls, provide 15-25 gallons of water, until the ground freezes. After the first few years, continue to water trees during dry times. Tree water bags may make watering easier.

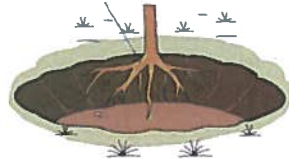
Protecting

A plastic or metal mesh tree guard can be installed around the tree's trunk to protect it from animal, mower, and trimmer injury. The tree guard must be removed or replaced as the tree grows.

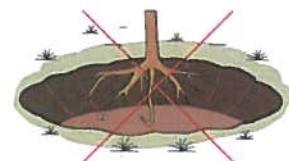


- 1 Keep roots moist at all times. Dry roots die.
- 2 Dig a hole twice as wide as and slightly deeper than root length.
- 3 Place roots in hole so top of first woody root is within 1 inch of soil surface.

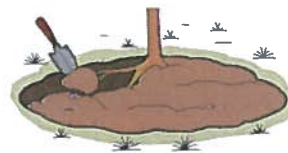
FIRST WOODY ROOT



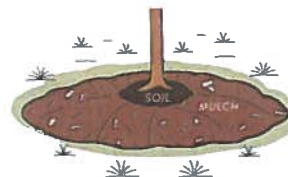
- 4 Distribute roots evenly, making sure roots are straight and not doubled over or "J" rooted.



- 5 Keeping tree straight, backfill hole up to top of first woody root.



- 6 Heel in soil with foot over entire backfill area to remove air pockets from the soil.
- 7 Water entire backfill area.
- 8 Layer 3 inches of mulch over backfilled area, keeping mulch away from trunk.



DON'T CREATE A MULCH VOLCANO. IT CAN ROT YOUR TREE.