

**Subject: Planting Trees**

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

PROCEDURE: **Planting Trees**

INTENDED AUDIENCE: LNR personnel who will plant trees on campus.

PURPOSE: To train LNR person on the proper installation of trees and their immediate care)

**I. Knowledge**

- a. Be familiar with tree species. Right tree, right place. How big will the tree get? How large is the container? Is it Ball and burlap, containerized, container grown, or bare root? Is there adequate root space? Is a dig permit needed (hand dig no, machine yes)? Is there utility present? What type of irrigation will be used? How long will it be irrigated? What type of stakes will be used?

**II. Safety**

- a. Small bare root trees and trees less than or equal to 15 gallons: Follow OSHA standard weight lifting protocols for items less than 30lbs. Shovel use requires hand glove PPE.
- b. Trees larger than 15 gallons: Use proper lifting machinery and appropriate PPE (Steel toe boots, gloves, hard hat, eye protection and hearing protection if necessary if machinery is used).
- c. If strapping will be used during transport, be sure to check line load bearing capacities and work within working load limits.
- d. When lowering trees into holes, all personnel require PPE.

**III. Tree Selection**

- a. All trees from nursery shall be Florida #1 or better by The Florida Department of Agriculture Grades and Standards for Nursery Plants for the tree grouping matrix.

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#### **IV. Steps for Planting Trees**

- a. Secure any lifting equipment necessary and PPE.
- b. Start digging planting hole.
- c. Measure the container and dig the planting hole an extra foot in radius (the hole should be wider rather than deeper).

**Note:** No tree larger than 30 gallons shall be lifted without having the root ball supported.

**Note:** The root flare should be 1" above the rim of the planting hole, and the tree should be positioned vertically.

- d. Backfill hole with native soil.

**Note:** Tree rings should not be taller than 3 inches of dirt on all sides.

- e. Mulch according to LNR SOP- 402 "Mulching Trees".
- f. Thoroughly water in trees and examine for blowouts.
- g. Monitor Trees for the first 90 days for health concerns.
- h. Water trees every day or a minimum of every other day for the first 90 days.
- i. Saturate soil to promote deep root establishment.

#### **V. Staking Trees**

- a. Straps for trees should meet the following requirements:
  - i. Straps will not be abrasive, wire, or hose.
  - ii. Straps should be secured 2/3 up the height of the tree.
  - iii. Duck bill stakes are preferable.