

# ARBOR DAY

## Seedling Giveaway

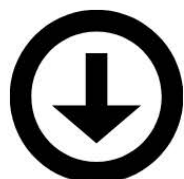
April 24 | 10 a.m.



## 2026 Seedling Species & Info:

- Bald Cypress
- Red Oak
- Tulip

[\*\*Learn more below\*\*](#)





# Tree Planting Instructions

**DNR**

Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

*Forestry*

## **PLANTATION CARE**

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Many plantations have been lost after the first year because of a lack of follow-up weed control. Weed control for three to four years after planting is important for the survival and growth of the trees. On highly productive sites, weeds will grow faster than the trees and compete with them for resources, including nutrients, water, and sunlight.

This competition can best be controlled with the use of herbicides labeled for weed control in tree plantings. Shallow cultivation and organic mulches are additional means of controlling this competition, but they are not as efficient as the use of herbicides. If the weeds are primarily perennial grasses such as fescue, mow close to the ground in fall to eliminate cover for voles (small rodents) that will girdle the seedling in the winter. Be sure to obtain technical assistance if you are unfamiliar with the use of herbicides.

## **PROTECTION**

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Unless you protect your plantation from fire and domestic livestock, you cannot expect success. Insect and disease problems are not normally severe enough to cause concern. Should these become a major problem, your District Forester can advise you about their possible control. You can find your District Forester's contact information at [dnr.IN.gov/forestry/private-forestland-management/district-foresters](http://dnr.IN.gov/forestry/private-forestland-management/district-foresters).

## **STORING SEEDLINGS**

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If you will be able to plant the seedlings within two weeks after receiving them, they can be safely stored in the original bundles. The packages should be placed in a cool location out of direct sunlight, such as an unheated garage or basement. The seedlings must be protected from freezing temperatures. Ideal storage temperatures are 34 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Heeling in is an option if you receive seedlings in March and will not be planting them for several weeks. The seedlings should be planted before they begin to "leaf" out or begin new root growth.

Anyone can plant trees, but not all trees are planted successfully. Combining the right species with the right site to achieve the best growth and survival, planting at the proper time, and following the proper planting process are all vital steps in establishing a successful tree planting. Species selection is the first and most critical step.

## **SPECIES SELECTION**

The objective of the tree planting is to plant the species most suited to that site. Tree planting is not an easy or inexpensive operation if done properly, so you will want to plant a species that will grow well.

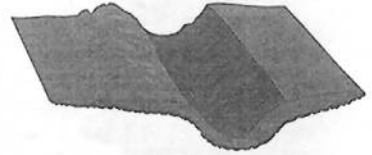
If you are unsure of what species to plant on your particular site, contact your District Forester or Soil Conservation office. Both can provide technical assistance in choosing the best species for your given site. Remember...the biggest mistake made in tree planting is planting the wrong species.

## **SITE PREPARATION**

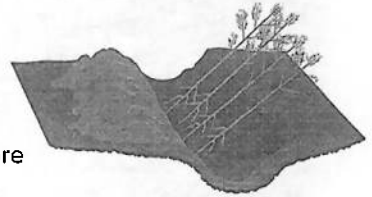
Preparation of the planting area is important for good survival and fast, early growth. Site preparation is an important first step in a successful tree planting. Many perennial weeds that will be difficult to control after the trees are planted can be controlled by preparing the site in the year before planting. Application of the appropriate herbicide will go a long way toward reducing competition from fescue, established woody plants, and other perennial weeds. Plowing and disking are other options but may open the soil to erosion on sloping sites. In woodland openings, the competing vegetation can be controlled with chemicals. Your District Forester can advise you on the chemicals that are labeled for this purpose and how to use these chemicals safely. If you are unfamiliar with the use of herbicides, obtain technical assistance from your District Forester.

## HEELING IN

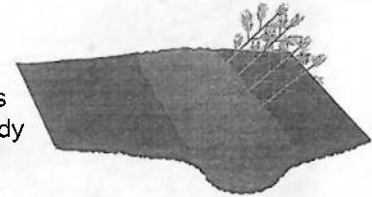
Dig a shallow trench, preferably in a shaded area.



Place seedlings in the trench and cover with soil. If heeled in for more than a week, water as needed.



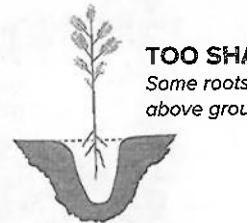
This will keep the roots moist until you are ready to permanently plant them.



Suggested spacing	# of trees per acre	Remarks
6' x 6'	1,210	Erosion control and Christmas trees
8' x 8'	680	Best for general reforestation
10' x 10'	435	On better sites where trees are to be cultivated with mechanical equipment.
12' x 12'	300	Best for windbreaks
16' x 16'	170	Best for windbreaks

## PLANTING DEPTH

A properly planted seedling should have the root collar (zone between root and stem) about 1 inch below ground level. Seedlings planted too deep, too shallow, or J-rooted (tap root facing up) will not take full advantage of the seedling's capacity to produce roots and foliage. An improperly planted tree is much less likely to survive.



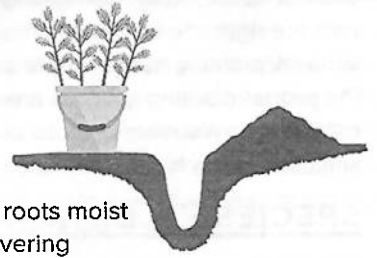
**TOO SHALLOW**  
Some roots above ground level.



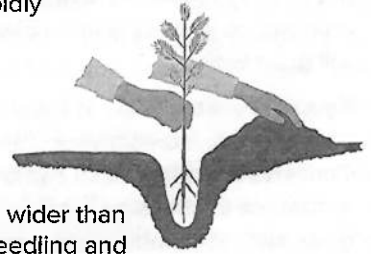
**TOO DEEP**  
Much of the root collar below ground level.

## PLANTING PROCEDURES

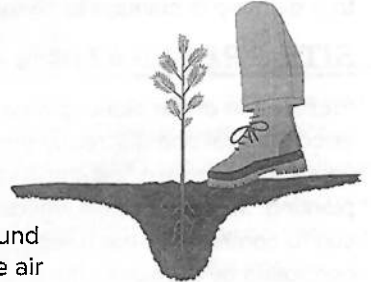
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Keep the seedlings' roots moist while planting by covering them with moss from inside the bundle. On hot or windy days, roots can dry out rapidly



Dig hole deeper and wider than root system, insert seedling and fill loosely with soil.

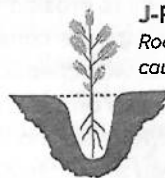


Gently pack soil around seedling to eliminate air pockets around roots. Do not stomp.

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### LOW

Roots are exposed to ground level.

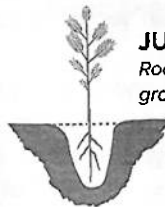


### J-ROOT

Roots are forced into the hole, causing root ends to be facing up.

### POOR

Root collar is under ground level.



### JUST RIGHT

Root collar is about 1 inch below ground level; roots running down.

## STATE NURSERY LOCATIONS



★ **J-P** Jasper-Pulaski State Nursery  
15508 W. 700 N.  
Medaryville, IN 47957  
(219) 843-4827  
jaspurnursery@dnr.IN.gov

★ **V** Vallonia State Nursery  
2782 W. County Road 540 S.  
Vallonia, IN 47181  
(812) 358-3621  
vallonianursery@dnr.IN.gov

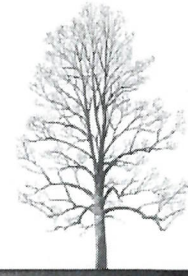
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Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Forestry  
402 W. Washington St., Room 296  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

317-232-4105  
dnr.IN.gov/forestry

# TULIPTREE<sup>75</sup>

## *Liriodendron tulipifera*



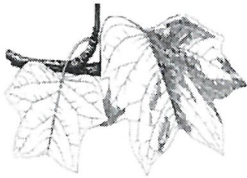
The tuliptree is the official state tree of Indiana. It is not only one of the most distinctive trees of Indiana, but it is also one of the largest trees. This native Indiana tree is also known as the tulip poplar or yellow poplar. It is a member of the magnolia family of plants.

### Mature Height and Growth

At maturity it will be a large tree reaching heights of over 150 feet and diameters of over 3 feet. The tuliptree is a rapid growing tree and once established could average 2 foot in height per year.

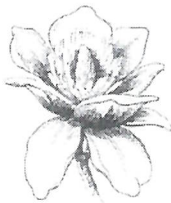
### Best Planting Site

The tuliptree grows best in deep, fertile, well-drained soils. It is a fast growing tree and should be planted where there is plenty of sunlight.



### Leaves

The leaves of the tuliptree are distinctive and easily recognized, and are composed of 4 large lobes. They are 5 –6 inches long with the 2 outer lobes often flattened into a squarish end.



### Flowers

The flowers are tulip-like, 1 – 2 inches wide, with yellowish-green petals that are marked with reddish-orange bands near the base. The tuliptree begins setting flowers late May or early June.

### Fruit

The fruit is an upright cone-like cluster (to 3 inches long) on many seeds. Winged, angled seeds wind dispersed in autumn; sometimes on snow.



### Uses

The lumber is used in furniture while the veneer is used extensively in cabinetwork. The normally abundant seed is used by squirrels in early fall and many species of songbirds throughout the winter.



Illustrations taken from: "Forest trees of Illinois", Third Edition, Robert H Mohlebrock, Department of Botany, Southern Illinois University; "USDA Forest Service Collection" <http://www.huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/USDA/USDA.html> USDA Forest service, Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation and Carnegie Mellon University October 26, 2004.

# BALDCYPRESS<sup>83</sup>

## *Taxodium distichum*



The baldcypress is a native Indiana tree originally found in the bottomlands and swamps of southern Indiana. It grows on sites ranging from shallow swamps to rich upland soils. Although its native range was southern Indiana, it is winter hardy through northern Indiana.

### Mature Height and Growth

Baldcypress is a large tree that can reach heights of 130 feet tall and 3-5 feet in diameter. Baldcypress trees that are 2,000 years old have been recorded as large as 150 feet in height and 12 feet in diameter.

### Best Planting Site

Shallow swamps to rich upland soils. Very wet riverbanks and floodplain lakes that are sometimes submerged; often in pure stands.

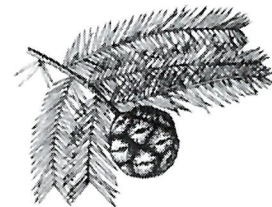


### Leaves

The light-green leaves of the baldcypress are ½"-3/4" long. Leaves are thin, flat, and linear and are sharp pointed. The fibrous bark, ranging in color from light gray to brownish red, divides into flat ridges with shallow furrows.

### Fruit

The round cones occur singly or in clusters of 2 or 3, and are about an inch in diameter.



### Flowers

The flowers of the baldcypress, appear between March and April, are brownish and 3"-5" long.



### Uses

The baldcypress is widely grown for its very rot resistant wood, for shade and ornamental plantings, and sometimes for use as windbreaks. The wood is used in building warehouses, docks, and bridges. The baldcypress provides cover for many species of wildlife and food for squirrels and wood ducks.



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Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America. 1968; Harlow, William Ph.D., et al. "Textbook of Dendrology", 1979; "Wildlife Shrub Species".  
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/nursery/order/shrubs.htm> . Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. August 23, 2002.

# RED OAK<sup>63/123</sup>

## *Quercus rubra*



The red oak, also known as the northern red oak, is one of the most important and widespread. It is a large tree.

### Mature Height and Growth

At maturity it often reaches 100 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in diameter. The red oak is a moderate to fast-growing tree.

### Best Planting Site

The red oak may be found on many soil types mixed in with other hardwoods. Best development, however is usually made on fine-textured, moist soils with good surface drainage. Not well adapted to wet or poorly drained soils.



### Leaves

The deciduous leaves of the red oak are 5 to 8 inches long with a somewhat shiny surface. Turning brown or dark red in the fall.

### Flowers

The red oak normally requires 20 to 25 years to reach flowering age.



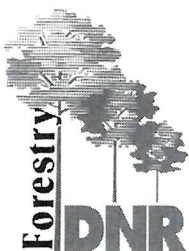
### Fruit

The acorn varies in shape and size enclosed at the base in a thick, saucer like cup. Good acorn crops are produced every 2 to 5 years, but may take up to 20 years to begin producing an abundant crop.



### Uses

The light reddish-brown wood of the red oak is hard, strong, and an important lumber source. It is used widely for flooring, furniture, and veneer. The acorn is consumed by the whitetail deer, raccoons, squirrels, turkey, as well as many other species of wildlife. Deer also eat the buds and young twigs during the winter after the acorns are exhausted.



Illustrations taken from: Brockman, Frank. "Trees of North America. 1968;