



Tree Shelter Installation Fact Sheet

Octoraro Native Plant Nursery

The following information is a quick reference guide for installing the tree shelter over your Octoraro container seedlings. Following these simple steps will help ensure the best protection from wildlife, adverse weather events and improve plant survival.

Planting your Seedling

- ❑ Plant your seedlings as recommended in the planting instruction guide.
- ❑ Prune small lateral branching if necessary prior to installing the shelter.
- ❑ This will not adversely affect the long term growth or survival of the tree.

Installing the Tubex Tree Shelter

- ❑ Make sure the flared end of the tube is facing up and the non-flared end is facing down toward the ground
- ❑ Gently slide the tube over the top of the plant.
- ❑ Nestle the tube into the soil to a depth of about 1-1.5" or as able without damaging root flare (this helps deter voles from entering tubes)
- ❑ Hold the tube in place for stake installation (see below)

Installing the Stake

- ❑ Slide the white oak stake through the pre-threaded nylon zip ties
- ❑ Drive the stake with a mallet into the ground to approximately 1' depth or when the top of the stake is about 1.5" above the top nylon tie.
- ❑ Secure the nylon ties to the stake by pulling the ends tightly
- ❑ NOTE: place the stake on either/both the upstream side of the plant (in riparian areas) or the upwind side (in upland reforestation areas). This provides greater strength and reduces streamflow or wind shear forces on the tubes.

Installing the Bird Net

- ❑ Slide one end of the mesh Bird Net over the flared end of the tree shelter.
- ❑ Pull it down over the top of the shelter until it is flush with the top of the shelter and forms about a 1.5" diameter opening across the top of the tube.
- ❑ This prevents bluebirds and other birds from falling down in the tube as well as providing an opening for the central leader of the tree when it emerges from the shelter.

Removal of Shelters

- ❑ Shelters should NOT be removed until the tree has reached at least 3" caliper measured a foot above soil grade.
- ❑ Deer can "buck rub" and seriously damage and kill trees up to this size
- ❑ It is especial hard to lose a tree that has achieved a level of maturity because shelter was removed prematurely