

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Saratoga Tree Nursery

## School Seedling Application

Deadline: March 31

NAME OF SCHOOL/GROUP

SHIPPING ADDRESS (No P.O. Boxes) Please check one:  School's address  Private residence

SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS (If different from above)

CONTACT PERSON'S NAME (individual responsible for planting)

CONTACT'S EMAIL

CONTACT'S TELEPHONE #

COUNTY OF PLANTING

TOWN OF PLANTING

( )

Shipping date (the day the package leaves the Nursery) is limited to the following days.  
(circle date):

May 1      May 2      May 3      May 8      May 9      May 10

Choose a shipping date at least 3 days before your planting date to allow for delivery. We will try and honor the date selected. If unable to plant immediately, store seedlings in a cool location and keep their roots moist.

Please check one. (Only one package allowed per school, organization, or group.)

White spruce  
(50 seedlings)

Red oak  
(25 seedlings)

Mixed shrub  
(30 mixed variety shrub  
seedlings)

### AGREEMENT

Seedlings received shall be planted for the purpose of encouraging environmental awareness and conservation education. Seedlings shall not be planted solely for ornamental purposes.

Students shall be informed of the proper practices for the care of the seedlings before, during and after planting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of School Principal or Representative

## SCHOOL SEEDLINGS

### *Planting for Knowledge*

DEC's School Seedling Program provides free tree seedlings to New York State teachers to bolster lesson plans that educate young people about the natural world and the value of trees in it.

**Why Participate?** When students plant tree seedlings, they can see for themselves the structure of trees, learn what trees need, and how they grow. Teachers can use the planting process to discuss the benefits of trees, such as:

- Providing wildlife habitat,
- Preventing soil erosion,
- Absorbing water and air pollutants,
- Moderating temperatures,
- Supplying oxygen, and
- Reducing stress,

while incorporating other subjects that their classes are studying.

As seedlings mature, the young trees can be a continuing, personalized way of relating what they've learned in class to visible, living examples. Students can learn about their role in protecting the environment and hopefully make intelligent decisions about conservation and use of natural resources, as a result.

**Who is Eligible?** All schools and youth organizations may participate. Individual homeschools must apply through a homeschool group, co-op, or other association. Only one application will be accepted per school, homeschool group, or youth organization.

### **Where Should Seedlings Be Planted?**

DEC encourages planting on school property so students can be responsible for the care and protection of the seedlings. When permissible, other possible locations include parks, roadsides, public buildings, and nursing homes.

**Getting Started.** Contact your Regional DEC Forestry Office (see reverse side) for specific information about this program in your area. A forester will be available to advise you on the appropriate species to choose and proper planting techniques.

**What's Available?** All seedlings are bare root, 2-3 years old, and approximately 4"-12" tall. There are three options (the Nursery will substitute species with suitable alternatives if necessary):

1. **White spruce** – A native short-needed evergreen that grows in clay or loamy soils and reaches 70 feet at maturity. **Package of 50.** Space requirements: Spruce seedlings need a 6-foot diameter growing space, so 50 seedlings will require 1,800 square feet of open space.
2. **Red oak** - a native hardwood that prefers sun and moist, well-drained soil, grows well in upland sites, and reaches 60-80 feet at maturity. **Package of 25.** Space requirements: Oak seedlings need a 10-foot diameter growing space, so 25 seedlings will require 2,500 square feet of open space.
3. **Mixed shrub** –native shrubs (most likely silky dogwood, ninebark, and black chokecherry) that grow in clay or loamy soils and can tolerate varying amounts of sun exposure. **Package of 30.** Space requirements: Shrub seedlings should be planted 6 feet apart, so 30 seedlings will require 900 square feet of open space. Plant varieties of the same kind together to promote pollination and fruiting.

**Receiving Your Seedlings.** Shipment is by FedEx and takes place during the first two weeks of May on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday only. Select a shipping date at least 3 days prior to your planting date. Seedlings should be planted as soon as possible after receipt. Until planting, keep them cool and out of direct sunlight. Do not let the roots dry out.

Detach here and mail

## Planting Instructions

Seedlings are perishable. Keep in a cool, shaded place until planting. Do not let the roots dry out.

**TOOLS REQUIRED:** Shovel and bucket

1. Place seedlings in a bucket and fill with water until all roots are covered.
2. Remove all vegetation from at least a foot around where a seedling will be planted to reduce competition with other plants.
3. Dig a hole deep and wide enough to contain the roots.
4. Place the roots of the seedling in the hole and carefully spread them out. The root collar (where roots join the stem) should be at the ground's surface. The seedling should stand straight.
5. Fill the hole with soil and gently compact it to remove air pockets that could dry out the roots and kill the seedling. Reposition the seedling as necessary to keep it straight and to prevent the root collar from being buried.
6. Water the seedling slowly and thoroughly after planting to settle the soil. If rainfall is not adequate, water weekly for the first year after planting.
7. Mark the seedlings with a stake or flagging so they won't be cut off by a mower or stepped on.
8. Fertilizer is not recommended at planting time. It can be applied two or three years after planting when the root system has developed.

**DEC Saratoga Tree Nursery**  
2369 Route 50  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4771  
518-581-1439

## NYS DEC REGIONAL FORESTRY OFFICES

### REGION 1

(631) 444-0285 (Nassau, Suffolk)

### REGION 2

(718) 482-4942 (New York City)

### REGION 3

(845) 256-3000 (Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester)

### REGION 4

(518) 357-2066 (Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Schenectady)

(607) 652-7365 (Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie)

### REGION 5

(518) 897-1276 (Clinton, Essex, Franklin)  
(518) 623-1200 (Saratoga, Warren, Washington)  
(518) 863-4545 (Fulton, Hamilton)

### REGION 6

(315) 376-3521 (Jefferson, Lewis)  
(315) 265-3090 (St. Lawrence)  
(315) 866-6330 (Herkimer, Oneida)

### REGION 7

(607) 753-3095 (Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins)

(607) 674-4017 (Broome, Chenango, Madison)

### REGION 8

(585) 226-2466 (Genesee, Monroe, Orleans, Wayne)

(607) 776-2165 (Chemung, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Yates)

### REGION 9

(716) 851-7000 (Erie, Niagara, Wyoming)  
(716) 363-2052 (Cattaraugus, Chautauqua)  
(585) 466-3241 (Allegany)

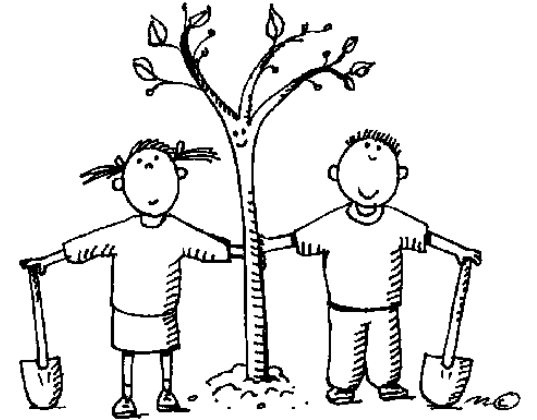
Place  
Stamp  
Here

Saratoga Tree Nursery  
2369 Route 50  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4771

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
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Environmental Conservation

# School Seedlings



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for  
Knowledge