

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Saratoga Tree Nursery

School Seedling Application

Deadline: March 31

SCHOOL NAME

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

SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS (If different from above)

CONTACT PERSON'S NAME (individual responsible for handling/planting at school)

SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBER

COUNTY OF PLANTING

TOWN OF PLANTING

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Please **DO NOT** Schedule Shipment During School Vacation

Date to be Planted _____ Date to be Shipped _____
Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday ONLY – Allow 3 days for delivery. Shipments from April 14 until May 19th.

Seedlings should be planted as soon as possible after receipt. Until planting, keep seedlings cool and out of direct sunlight. Do not let the roots dry out.

Each school is permitted one of the following packages. Check one.

- White Pine (50 seedlings)
 White Spruce (50 seedlings)
 Packet #2 (Mix of 30 wildlife habitat 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

Planting and caring for a tree seedling can help young people learn about the natural world and the value of trees in it. DEC's School Seedling Program provides New York State students with this experience.

Why Participate? Most of us recognize the beauty of trees and their many other values. Trees provide food and shelter for wildlife and prevent loss of soil (erosion). They help protect our streams and lakes by stabilizing soil and using nutrients that would otherwise wash into waterways. Trees help moderate temperature and muffle noise. They give off oxygen and help improve air quality by absorbing some airborne compounds that could be harmful to us. Spending time around trees and in nature also reduces stress and makes us healthier.

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 trees provide, 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 become aware that they can play a role in protecting the environment through personal involvement in establishing a grove of trees. Ultimately, it is hoped that the experience will help them make intelligent decisions about conservation and use of natural resources.

Who is Eligible? All schools may participate – public, private or parochial; nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college or university. Any school sponsored organization is also eligible. Planting can be related to a wide variety of scholastic programs – it is not confined to any given subject, purpose or age level.

DEC encourages planting on school property so students can be responsible for the care and protection of the seedlings.

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

What's Available? DEC's Tree Nursery offers three choices:

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*)

Native long-needled evergreen. Grows best in well-drained soils and reaches 100 feet at maturity. Can be planted statewide.

White Spruce (*Picea glauca*)

Native short-needled evergreen. Grows in clay and/or loamy soils and reaches 70 feet at maturity. Can be planted statewide.

Packet #2

A mix of 30 wildlife habitat shrubs. Shrubs will grow in clay or loamy soils. Plant varieties of the same kind together to promote pollination and fruiting. Can be planted statewide.

Each school is allowed one order. The pine and spruce need 1,800 square feet of open space for the 50 seedlings. Each seedling needs a growing space of about 6 feet in diameter. The mixed packet of 30 shrubs attract a variety of songbirds as well as other wildlife. These should be planted 6 feet apart and require 900 square feet of open space.

The seedlings are 2 to 3 years old, about 4"-12" tall, and bare root. They are light enough for young children to carry and plant. Shipment is by UPS, beginning April 14th and running through the third week in May. Select a shipping date at least 3 days prior to the planting date. Shipping takes place on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday **only**.

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 for at least one foot around the planting spot for each seedling 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 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
www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9393.html

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, Green, 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)

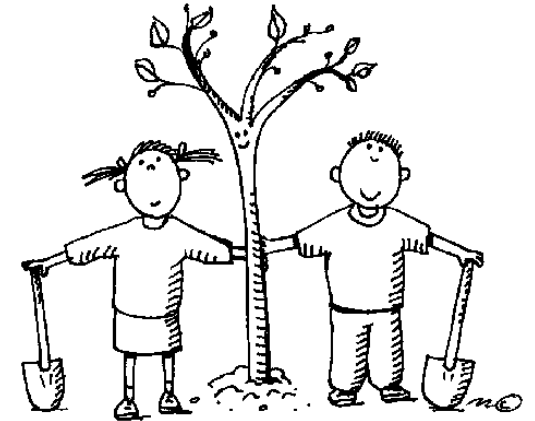
12/2021

Place
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Department of
Environmental
Conservation

School Seedlings



Planting
for
Knowledge

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
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