

Caring for your new Tree Seedlings:

Thank you for taking part in a reforestation project in collaboration with the Pine River Watershed Initiative Network (PRWIN). It is with your generous support that PRWIN can reach their goal of "**Clean water and a healthy ecosystem within the Pine River Watershed.**"

Increasing forest cover in the watershed **provides** habitat and corridors for wildlife, **protects** soil resources, and **enhances** the ecosystem's ability to filter out contaminants that can impair water quality.

Water during summer months

- Pay attention to weather conditions over the summer months and consider **watering your trees** if drought-like conditions are in the forecast
- Trees need to be **deep watered** to promote downward root growth

How can I help my trees grow taller than the surrounding competition?

- Consistent maintenance of grasses and weeds is an effective way to help trees grow taller than their competition and can take anywhere from **three to five years**
- **Manual** methods can be used on smaller tree planting projects and involve **hand-weeding** the competition and may need to be repeated
- **Mechanical** maintenance involves using **tractors** and **mowers** to cut the grass and weeds and provides the **greatest benefits** if mowing can be completed between the rows of trees and within the rows of trees

Can my trees be sprayed with herbicide?

- Herbicide treatments (herbicide application of "**simazine**") are an **effective** way to manage heavy competition within large numbered tree planting sites and often last longer than other methods
- The herbicide can be used on most softwoods and hardwoods but **cannot be used on tamarack** trees

Why are my softwood trees changing colours?

- In the fall, the pine trees often turn a **light brown** colour and lose their needles
- If the needles turn a **light green to yellow colour** this is an indicator of lack of nitrogen as a result of the trees adjusting to their new environment
- **Do not remove** your trees unless you are positive they are dead!

How can I help my trees grow strong and healthy?

- It is important to **check** your tree planting site periodically to ensure competition is not taking over the trees and to **monitor** growth and site conditions
- This can be accomplished by walking through your project each growing season and **look for signs** of insect damage, disease, and dead trees

Mulching and cover crops

- **Well composted** man made or organic mulches can be applied 60 cm around the base of the tree to **inhibit** weed growth and **aid** in water retention
- Low growing clover species such as **Huia white clover** is an effective cover crop that will **prevent** soil erosion, **fix** nitrogen in the soil and help **control** weeds

For **more information** please contact the PRWIN office at 519-395-5538
or through email at pineriverwin@yahoo.ca or pineriverwatershed@pineriverwatershed.ca

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