

Finishing Up

- Water the plant immediately to settle the soil and eliminate any air pockets. Add more soil to any holes that appear.
- If using compost or mulch, apply it to the top of the soil in a circle at least as wide as the roots, but not touching the stem.

Planting Livestakes (Cuttings)

- A tool called a planting bar is often used to punch a hole for the cutting. In softer soils, cuttings can sometimes be directly pushed or hammered in.
- Place the cutting in right side up. Cuttings are typically cut on an angle on the bottom and flat on the top. When held right way up, the buds will point upward.
- A general rule is to plant cuttings 18" deep, or at least half the length of short cuttings. Deeper is fine, as long as a few buds are exposed at the top.
- Tamp in around the cutting to ensure that there are no air pockets along the stem. You can push the planting bar into the soil immediately around the stem and push in the soil toward the plant.

For more information on proper stream restoration techniques and volunteer opportunities contact your local WSU Cooperative Extension Office, Conservation District, Stream Team program, Natural Resources Conservation Service or Tribal Natural Resources Department.

This fact sheet and accompanying planting techniques video are available in downloadable formats at the following website: <http://wawater.wsu.edu>



PUGET SOUND
WATER QUALITY
ACTION TEAM
Office of the Governor

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Plant It Right: Restoration Planting Techniques

by
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Thank you for helping to restore stream-side vegetation. Following the tips in this brochure will help ensure that the plants you plant today will thrive for years to come.

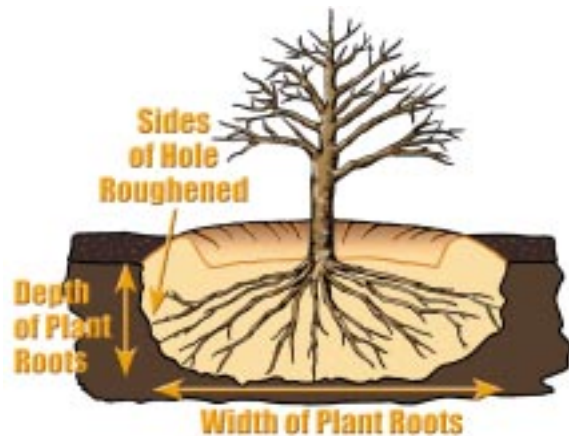
Follow a Planting Plan

- Before planting, check with the project coordinator or the planting plan to be sure your plants are in the right location.

Preparing the Hole

- Clear away all loose materials, such as leaves, rocks and branches, from the area where the hole will be dug.
- Dig the hole wide enough to completely spread out the plant roots, without crowding or bending them.

- Dig the planting hole deep enough so the plant, when set in the hole, will be at the level it was in the pot.
- Thoroughly clear existing roots from the hole.
- Pile soil in a cleared area next to the hole. Take plant roots and grass clumps out of the soil that will be used to backfill the hole.
- Roughen the sides of the hole if they appear slick.



Preparing the Plant

The plants for your project may either be in containers or they may have no soil around the roots (bareroot and salvaged plants).

For Potted Plants:

- Ensure the soil in the pot is moist, then tip the pot on its side and gently press on the pot to loosen the plant.

Gently pull the plant by holding on to the base of its stem.

- Most plants will have roots exposed. Pull loose roots outward and cut or straighten any that are encircling the rootball (circling roots will continue to grow in a circle and cause the plant to grow poorly and possibly die).



- Place the plant in the hole and arrange roots so they point outward.
- Make sure the plant is placed at its original depth. Do not plant too deeply.

For Bareroot Plants:

- Keep the roots moist until planting by storing them in moist sawdust or soil. In addition, you may soak them for 1–2 hours (never longer than 6 hours).
- Before planting, prune back any badly bruised, broken, kinked, or jagged roots to sound wood.
- Make a small cone of soil in the bottom of the hole.
- Arrange the roots around the cone so they all point outward from the plant.

- Place the plant so that soil covers the roots, but doesn't cover the stem above the roots.

Replacing the Soil

- Backfill using the native soil that was dug out of the hole (or a hole nearby if more soil is needed).
- Ensure that only soil goes back into the hole. No large rocks, sticks, clumps of grass, or leaves.
- Do not add any soil amendments (fertilizer or compost) to the planting hole.
- Push soil around the roots in the hole without disturbing root arrangement.
- Push soil down firmly to remove any air pockets.
- Construct a basin around the periphery of the planting hole to hold water and adjust the soil so that water drains away from the immediate trunk area.

