



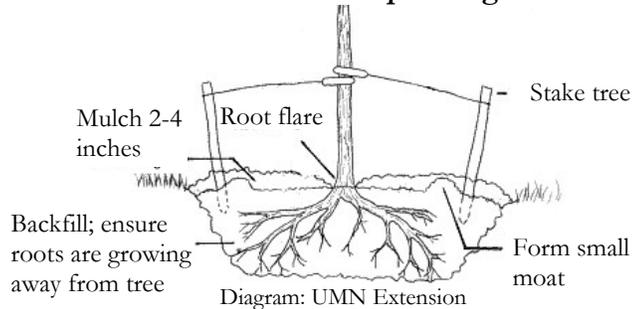
HEMLOCK RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Planting and Caring for Hemlocks

Bare Root Seedling Planting

1. Either keep the root ball intact or gently rinse the soil off the roots with water.
2. Soak roots overnight without submerging the top.
3. Keep roots wet during transporting by shading seedlings and wrapping in compost and burlap.
4. Avoid bending the roots when planting, ensuring they grow down and out.
5. Plant high, keeping root flare above the soil level.

Bare Root Transplanting



Note: Bare root transplanting is similar to transplanting a root ball, except the root ball should rest on packed soil.

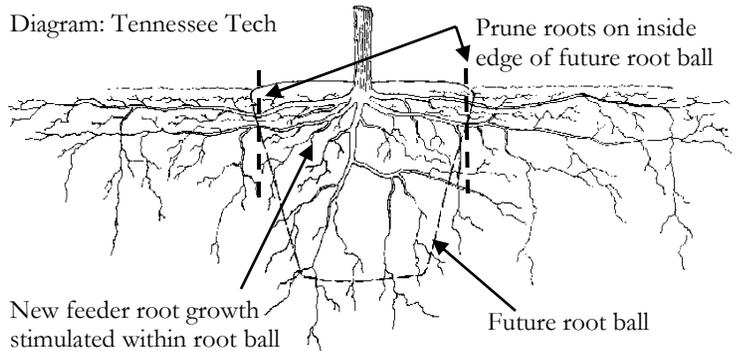
Root Pruning for Transplanting

The goal of root pruning trees within a landscape is to stimulate the growth of feeder roots within the root ball that will be transplanted. To prune the roots of a small tree (0-5 year old trees), use a spade make a circular cut around the tree the depth of the shovel blade. The cut should be along the inside edge of the future root ball (see right). See “How to Transplant a Hemlock” for sizing the root ball.

How to Transplant a Hemlock

1. Root ball size for hemlocks – trunk 1 inch in diameter at chest height should have a root ball diameter of 16-24 inches. Add 6-12 inches to the root ball for every additional inch in trunk diameter.
2. Prune roots with a shovel one year before transplanting to encourage the growth of new feeder roots within the future root ball.
3. Soak the soil around the tree roots 3 days before digging up the tree to keep the soil around the root ball.
4. Select the new location (see Hemlock Needs) and pre-dig the hole three times the width of the root ball.
5. Keep the root ball intact while transporting it to the new location using burlap or a tarp.
6. Set the tree at the same depth in the new hole and fill with topsoil. The root ball should be resting on packed earth, not loose backfilled soil.
7. Add 2 to 4 inches of mulch to the planted area keeping the mulch away from the trunk to prevent rot.

Root Pruning a Small Tree



Hemlock Needs

Soils – Hemlocks prefer slightly acidic, well drained, but evenly moist soil. Amending the soil with peat moss or sand will help make dense soil more porous. Hemlocks respond well to a low dose fertilizer.

Location – Hemlocks prefer partial sun, but tolerate full sun to full shade. Plant trees at 4 feet apart or in a hedge

Planting – The best time to plant hemlocks is in early spring. Hemlocks can be sensitive if planted in the fall and extra care should be taken to water, fertilize, and protect from winter salt spray. Plant with the root flare 2 to 4 inches above the soil. Lightly mulch and form a small watering moat to keep the roots from drying out.

First Year Care – Stake the tree to protect it from wind during root-in period. Water to the equivalent of approximately 1 inch of rain per week.

Health and HWA – Be cautious transplanting sickly or heavily infested trees. Hemlocks can be transplanted with light HWA infestation, but multiple stressors can kill the tree.

For more information on how to protect your hemlock trees from hemlock woolly adelgid, visit savehemlocksn.org or call (828) 252-4783