

Deer Habitat Improvement Program



Goals

- **Produce on ground deer habitat improvement (summer and winter range)**
- **Establish and promote partnerships between the DNR, sportsmen's organizations, and other partners**
- **Showcase these cooperative projects to educate the public on benefits of habitat improvement projects.**

Funding

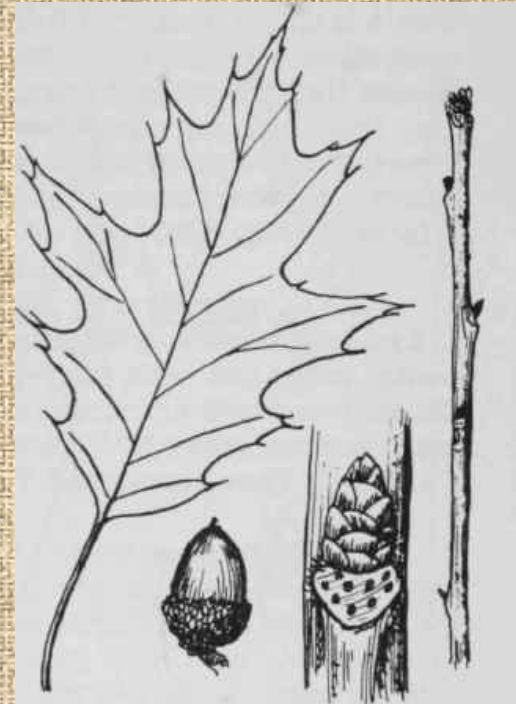
- **“Public Act 106 of 1971 created the Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP) fund, whereby \$1.50 from every deer hunting license sold statewide is allocated into a restricted fund to be exclusively used for the improvement and maintenance of habitat for deer, acquisition of land for deer management, and the payment in lieu of taxes on purchased lands.”**

Storage of trees

- **Store trees in a dark / cool place
30-40°F**
- **Keep roots moist**
- **Be sure to trim dead or broken roots
before planting**
- **Plant trees as soon as possible**

Red Oak

- Plugs
- Will be protected w biodegradable trunk protectors (5 yrs)
 - Tree tubes w. stake



Red Oak

- **Growth: 60-85' tall, 24-48" in diameter, live 200-300 years**
- **Acorns mature in autumn, minimum seed bearing age is 5-25 yrs.**
- **Habitat: Variety of sites, moderately shade tolerant, does best in full sun**

Planting Oaks

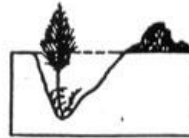
- Prepare site, remove vegetation around planting site (3' diameter)
- Use tree planting bar or shovel
- Plant seedlings at least 15-20' apart



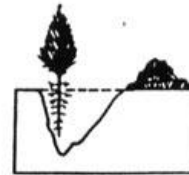
Correct and Incorrect Depths



Correct
At same depth or 1/2"
deeper than seedling
grew in nursery.



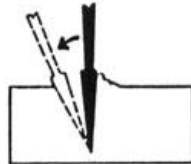
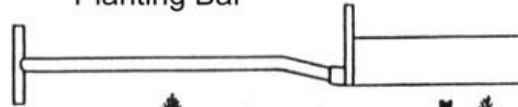
Incorrect
Too deep and roots
bent.



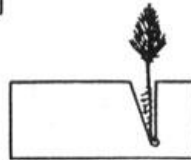
Incorrect
Too shallow and
roots exposed.

Dibble Planting

"Planting Bar"



1. Insert dibble as shown
and pull toward planter.



2. remove dibble and
place seedling at correct
depth.



3. Insert dibble 2 inches
toward planter from
seedling.



4. Pull handles of dibble
toward planter firming soil
at bottom of roots.

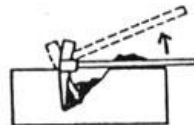


5. Push handle of
dibble forward from
planter firming soil at
top of roots.

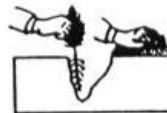


6. Firm soil around
seedling with feet.

Mattock Planting



1. Insert mattock-lift
handle and pull.



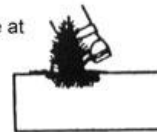
2. Place seedling
along straight side at
correct depth.



3. Fill in and pack
soil to bottom of

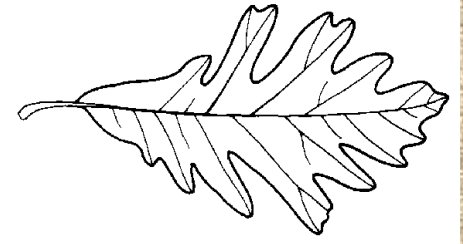


4. Finish filling in soil
and firm with heel.



5. Firm around
seedling with feet.

Planting Oaks



- Hole should be 3x the size of the root ball and as deep as the soil on the plug
- If digging in clay soil, avoid a smooth glazed hole, this will prevent water movement, to avoid this poke holes into the side of the hole or roughen it up
- Water at time of planting

Apple trees

- **Bare root**
- **Must protect 5 years with:**
 - **Tree wraps(rodent guards)**
 - **Fence each tree with a staked 8' diameter (25ft of fencing), 5' high wired fence**
 - **3 Fence Stakes/trees**





Apple trees

- **Plant in open areas that will receive full sun**
- **Needs well drained, rich soil**
- **Do not plant in frost pocket**
- **Prepare site by removing all vegetation**



Apple trees

- Dig a hole approximately 2x the diameter of the roots, loosen some soil in the bottom of the hole and around the sides, place tree in hole, fill the hole with soil. Be sure there are no air holes and firmly pack soil
- Do not add fertilizer at the time of the planting, but water trees



Apple trees

- **Wrap the trees with the rodent guards. Start approximately 2” below the soil and wrap around the tree with the wrap slightly overlapping all the way up to the first branch.**
- **Do not wrap too tight against, the wrap should grow with the tree and doesn't necessarily ever have to be removed**
- **To reduce browse even more provide a more accessible browse during winter months**

Apple trees

- If planting in a row, allow 15' between trees



Maintenance

- In absence of rain - water newly planted trees once a week, especially during warmer parts of the summer
- Refrain from pruning apple tree until it matures to fruit bearing age
- Prune when trees are dormant
- Prune dead, weak, or crossing branches
- Pruning reduces occurrence of disease by increasing air flow and sunlight

Planting Inspection

- **CLMCD/DNR staff member will inspect planting site before 06/1/2017**
- **At time of inspection landowner will receive partner sign to post near driveway or fire number**

Deliverables

- **In-kind match**
 - **Quantify the amount of time required to prepare, plant, and water the tree.**
 - **Distance traveled to pick up the trees and supplies**

Questions

