

Seedling Survival Supplies

Water Holding Polymer



Our non-toxic, synthetic polymer looks like rock salt and can absorb up to 400 times its weight in water. When hydrated it looks like chopped Jell-O. Hydrated polymer is added to the fill dirt of each planting and the water is held available for the trees. The polymer will rehydrate with each rain fall or watering. The use of polymer allows longer intervals between watering (rain or irrigation) and reduces moisture stress if water is unavailable on a regular basis. We do not recommend that you rely solely on polymer to water trees. Supplemental moisture is still required.

We also offer the same polymer in a fine grain texture that becomes honey like: when mixed with water. The mixture clings to the roots of bare root trees which prevents root drying during planting and reduces transplant shock.

Tree Guards

Tree guards are an 18 inch tall, 4 inch diameter, plastic mesh tube that is placed over your trees and held in place with a bamboo stake. The guards are made of photo degradable plastic which will break down in about 3 years when the trees are established and have outgrown them.

Tree guards are effective in animal control. Small trees provide a succulent source of food to a variety of wild animals. Even domestic animals like to taste seedlings.



Tree Shades



Tree shades are an 8" x 12" plastic mesh screen that is slipped over and stapled around a metal wicket. The screen provides an 80% shade factor and photo degrades after 5 years. Place the tree shade next to your seedling on the south or southwest side; this will cast a shadow over your tree during the hottest time of day.

Colorado's high altitude magnifies solar intensity and allows more U-V radiation to reach the ground. In natural forest conditions shade is provided by surrounding mature trees and objects such as downed logs. The lack of shade is primarily a concern with conifer seedlings of certain species such as pines, spruces, firs, and Douglas-fir. Even species that require direct sunlight will fare better if partially shaded during establishment.