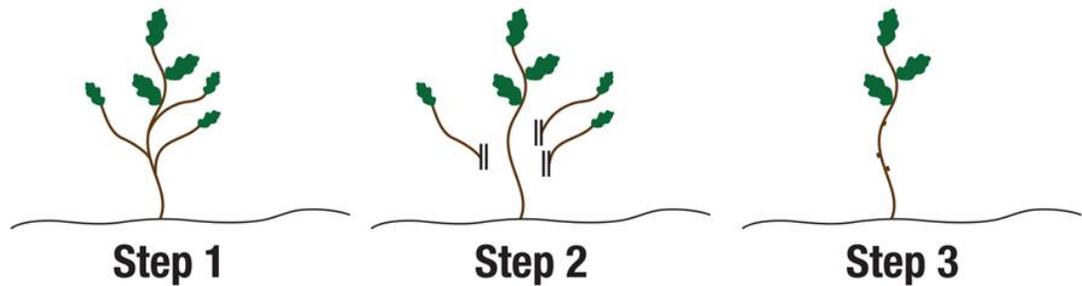


Plantra Grow Tube Guidelines



Step 1: Plant Seedling

Step 2: Prepare the Seedling for "Tubing"



If your seedlings have side (lateral) branches, please remove them carefully using sharp pruning shears before installing grow tube (see figure above). Do not bend side branches to squeeze or otherwise force them into the grow tube. This will encourage weak branching and other problems as the tree matures.

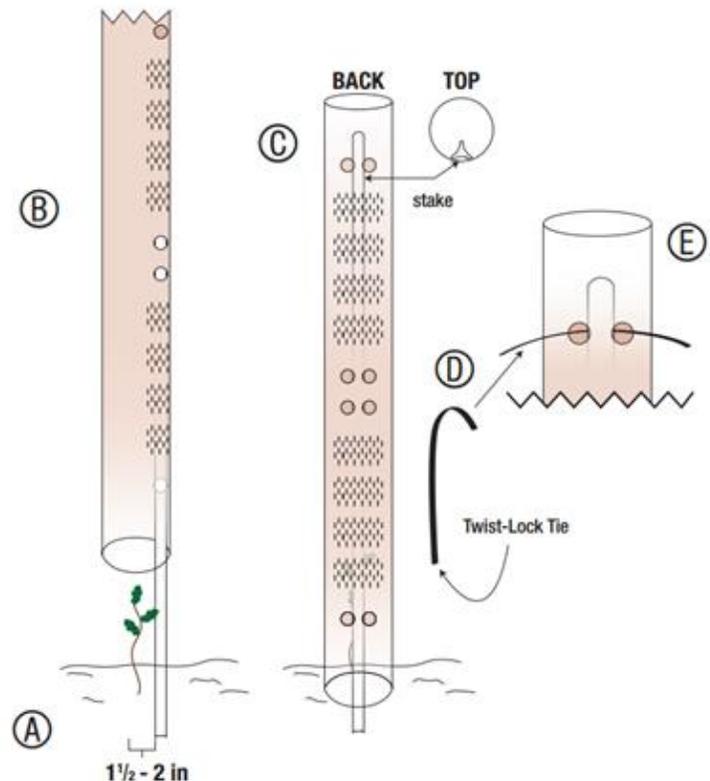
Step 3: Install Grow Tube and Support Stake

- Position stake 1.5 – 2 inches from the seedling with ground-line marker towards the ground. Use Plantra SunFlex Stake Driver and drive stake until ground-line marker reaches the soil surface.
- Pop grow tube open by flattening the tube its entire length in the opposite direction as packed. Next, slide the grow tube over the top of the stake and down to the ground carefully guiding the seedling inside the grow tube along the way.
- Position the grow tube so the stake is tight against the side of the tube and lined-up between the paired tie holes.

- Press tube base firmly into soil. When completed, the tip of the SunFlex stake should be at least 1-2 inches above the top tie hole and below the top of the grow tube.

Important: Firmly tap the top of the tube to seat the tube base into the soil. Mound additional soil around the tube base as needed to reduce entry by rodents.

- Attach the grow tube to the stake by inserting a Plantra Twist-Lock tie through the top tie hole from the outside, guiding it around the stake and back out the paired tie hole. Twist both tie ends firmly so the tube and stake are tight together to prevent the grow tube from sliding up from contact by animals. Repeat for middle and bottom tie holes.

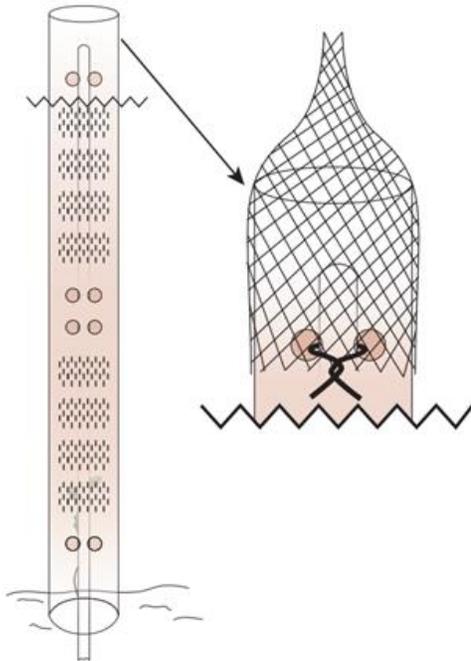


Plantra Grow Tube Guidelines

Step 4: Install Bird Exclusion Mesh Top

All SunFlex Grow Tubes, 4 ft tall and taller, come with exclusion mesh netting that is intended to discourage birds from entering the tubes.

Simply stretch the netting over the tube top like pulling on a sock. Pull the netting down to the top tie and gently insert one or both ends of the twist ties through the mesh to keep it from blowing off in the wind (see figure below).



Additional Considerations:

A Word About Weed Control

Weeds and grasses steal light, water, and nutrients from your seedlings and provide cover for stem-girdling rodents. Every square foot of soil is capable of producing a limited amount of biomass growth. By controlling weeds, growth potential is maximized. Using Plantra SunFlex Grow Tubes will make your seedlings easier to find for weed control and provide protection against weed sprays.

Grow Tube After-Care

SunFlex Grow Tubes are designed to last for years – until your trees are big enough to make it on their own. In the first season or two, new leaves will form on the stem inside the tube as the seedling grows. Please do not remove these green leaves – they are important to fuel the tree's early growth.

During the first season(s) be sure that the bird exclusion mesh tops remain in place on all tubes

4ft and taller. If any mesh tops are missing before seedlings grow within 6 inches of the tube tops please call our Grower Success Team at Plantra and we'll send you replacements free of charge. Once seedlings get to the top of the tube the mesh tops are no longer needed and should be removed.

To keep your trees fully protected beyond the first growing seasons, do not remove SunFlex Grow Tubes until the tree trunk has grown to the size of the tube diameter. SunFlex Grow Tubes are perforated along two side of their entire length, allowing the tube to split open once the trunk diameter grows larger than the diameter of the tube.

Waiting until the stem grows to the size of the tree tube diameter ensures that your tree is "wind-firm" and ready to support itself entirely. Doing so also allows the tube to help protect the main trunk against damage by antler rub, gnawing rodents, or mechanical injury. Once your trees outgrow the tube diameter the tubes and support stakes should be removed. SunFlex Grow Tubes can be recycled and the SunFlex stakes can be reused again.