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# How to Use Sphagnum Moss for Planting Trees

Newly planted trees require a great deal of water because the root system needs to be encouraged to expand beyond the area of the tight root ball. In addition, generally new tree location soil usually does not contain the moisture that the tree has become accustomed to while waiting in the nursery for a new home. To aid trees in the traumatic transition to a new location, quality nurseries suggest that newly planted trees receive several hours of water each day for several weeks after planting. This can be time consuming and expensive since much of the water seeps below the root line is lost.

## Products You'll Need



Mosser Lee  
[Long-Fibered](#)  
[Sphagnum](#)

## Supplies You'll Need

- 5-gallon bucket
- 4 - 432 cubic inch bags or one Mini Bale of [Mosser Lee Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss](#)
- Water from a garden hose
- Water soluble fertilizer recommended by your nursery for your specific tree
- Rubber gloves
- Shovel
- Your new tree balled and berlapped

Project Difficulty



# Benefits of Long Fibered Sphagnum Moss

The unique water retentive properties of Mosser Lee Long-fibered Sphagnum Moss provide an organic, easy and inexpensive method of caring for your tree in it's new home without wasting your time and water. Long fibered sphagnum moss can hold up to 20 times its own weight in water. The cell structure of the moss plant attracts water and holds it until the plant's root system seeks the water it holds. The moss can then rehydrate when it rains or when you water to provide an additional long lasting watering plan for your tree. Follow below as we teach you step-by-step: **How To Use Sphagnum Moss for Planting Trees!**



## Directions for Planting Trees with Sphagnum Moss: (put on your gloves)



1. Find a suitable location for your tree.
2. Follow your nursery's instructions for the size of the planting hole. Make sure that it is deep enough for the tree collar to sit at or above the soil line when filled and as wide as twice the size of the tree root ball.

3. Fill the bucket halfway with water and add fertilizer according to the directions on the fertilizer package.
4. Place all the moss in the bucket and squeeze the water through the moss to make sure that it is completely saturated. Water should be dripping from the moss. **Hint:** The dry moss will soak up a lot of water, so you may need to add more water.





5. Place about a third of the wet moss in the bottom of the hole and place the tree in the hole on top of the moss.
6. Take half of the remaining wet moss and distribute it around the inside sides of the hole near the root ball.



7. Cover the moss with dirt.

8. Water the entire area with a hose. Remember, the root ball needs water too.



9. Cut back as much of the burlap wrapping as possible and any wire from the tree ball.



10. Add the rest of the wet moss on top of the dirt.



11. Cover the moss with dirt up to the lawn level.



12. Add more water to the root ball.



13. Place mulch on top of the soil. Mulch will keep the soil and the moss from losing water through evaporation.

## Watering After Planting:

About a week after planting, give your tree about 15-30 minutes of watering each day. The water and fertilizer in the moss surrounding your tree's roots will help nourish your tree for about three weeks depending on rain and soil type.

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