



Tongass National Forest 1907 – 2007

Celebrating 100 Years of America's Largest National Forest Tree Planting Guide

The **100! for 100! Trees for the Tongass** is a nationwide campaign to commemorate the 100th birthday of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska – America's Rainforest. We will plant 100 seedlings across the nation in celebration of this centennial event. Be a part of the Celebration, and leave a legacy by planting a tree that will grow for years to come, in addition – planting a tree is a good step to combat climate change.

To Join Us:

Gather friends and family and create a **Tongass 100! Team** – plant your tree(s) this August or September and register your tree(s) online as a part of the 100 that we plant nationwide.

Step 1: find a location to plant your tree(s), this can be in your own yard, or in a local open space or park – contact the public landowner for permission, perhaps they have further help they can provide and would like to partner with this Celebration.

Step 2: plan to plant your tree (or trees!) in late August or early September – the official Birthday is September 10th, but anytime prior to the Alaska Wilderness League's Wilderness Week in Washington DC would be great (Sept 22 – 26). For added fun have a birthday cake to share (remember 100 candles! but be careful).

Step 3: Take Pictures! – we will post your photo on our website, but we also ask you to write a letter to your Congressperson to urge them to Co-sponsor the Tongass Wilderness Bill and include a copy of your photo in the letter. In your photo you may want to "bubble" (Which means on white, preferably recycled or recyclable, paper or cardboard, cut out a "bubble" and write a message like this: "*Dear Representative ___(name)_____ Please co-sponsor the Tongass Wilderness Bill.*" Be sure it is large enough to be read in the photo). Hold your Bubble in the photo so your smiling faces and the "ask" can be seen.

After, or Around, or Before your event:

Consider hosting a **Happy Birthday House Party** – invite friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors, and have a video or DVD (can be provided), a speaker, and talk about the importance of protecting our Rainforest in Alaska, write letters to Congress to support the Tongass Wilderness Bill, and have everyone sign our *Alaska Wilderness Not Warming* presidential candidate petition.

How to Plant Your Tree: Giving your trees the right care from day one is essential for long life and health. This means taking the time and care to plant a tree properly.



Use a shovel to mark the area you will be planting the tree in. The hole should be at least 2 times the diameter of the root system. *The most common mistake when planting a tree is a digging hole, which is both too deep and too narrow.* Too deep and the roots don't have access to sufficient oxygen to ensure proper growth. Too narrow and the root structure can't expand sufficiently to nourish and properly anchor the tree.

As a general rule, trees should be transplanted no deeper than the soil in which they were originally grown. The width of the hole should be at least 3 times the diameter of the root ball or container or the spread of the roots in the case of bare root trees. This will provide the tree with enough worked earth for its root structure to establish itself.

When digging in poorly drained clay soil, it is important to avoid 'glazing'. *Glazing occurs when the sides and bottom of a hole become smoothed forming a barrier, through which water has difficulty passing.* To break up the glaze, use a fork to work the bottom and drag the points along the sides of the completed hole. Also, raising the bottom of the hole slightly higher than the surrounding area. This allows water to disperse, reducing the possibility of water pooling in the planting zone.

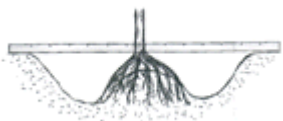
Trees (though subject to greater heat and drying conditions) can be stored for a brief period of time after purchase as long as the soil in the container is kept moist and the tree stored in a shady, cool spot.

Planting Trees



Once carefully removed from the container, check the roots. If they are tightly compressed or 'potbound', use your fingers or a blunt instrument (to minimize root tearing) to carefully tease the fine roots away from the tight mass and then spread the roots prior to planting. In the case of extremely woody compacted roots, it may be necessary to use a spade to open up the bottom half of the root system. The root system is then pulled apart or 'butterflied' prior to planting. Loosening the root structure in this way is extremely important. Failure to do so may result in the roots 'girdling' and killing the tree. At the very least, the roots will have difficulty expanding. To further assist this, lightly break up even the soil outside the planting zone. This allows roots that quickly move out of the planting zone to be more resilient as they anchor into existing surrounding soil conditions.

To plant, first build a cone of earth in the centre of the hole around which to splay the roots. Make sure that when properly seated on this cone the tree is planted so that the 'trunk flare' is clearly visible and the 'crown', where the roots and top meet, is about two inches above the soil level. This is to allow for natural settling



Once the tree is seated in the hole, the original soil is then back-filled into the hole to the soil level of the container. Again, remember not to overly compress the back-filled soil especially by tramping it with your feet. Compress gently using your hands instead.

Be sure to then water your new seedling thoroughly, and keep watered well for the next year. Mulch around your tree to three inches depth in a large circle to help keep the soil around the seedling moist. Be sure to not touch the bark of the new tree with the mulch to ensure that rotting does not occur.

The campaign for greater protection of the Tongass National Forest is underway right now! Join the Alaska Wilderness League in celebrating the first 100 years of the Tongass by working to help protect for future generations this one-of-a-kind, irreplaceable resource. You can help preserve for future generations what remains wild and open of this national treasure by calling on Congress to support Wilderness legislation and other measures. Visit www.alaskawild.org to find out how.

