

Tubex Standard Tubes

West Polk SWCD offers tree tubes to speed growth and improve transplant success rates. Tree tubes will improve growing conditions for just about all deciduous tree species, but they really shine when protecting trees on exposed sites and in areas where deer or rabbits are known to cause damage.

Tree Tube Benefits:

- Keeps summer wind from drying out seedlings and slowing growth.
- Prevents damage from deer browsing and rubbing.
- Protects trees from being damaged by mowers or trimmers.
- Reduces herbicide damage from overspray and makes spot spraying near seedling possible.
- Helps young trees stand up to damaging winter wind and spring sandblasting.
- Warms air near seedlings in early spring and late fall – extends growing season.
- Discourages rodents from damaging trees when used properly.

Installation Instructions:

- Plant trees.
- Pound oak stake one foot into the ground at a distance from the tree equal to half the tube diameter. (Try to position the stake on the upwind side of the seedling.)
- Position the tube so the flared edge is at the top, slide the zip ties over the stake and position the tube around the tree.
- Push the bottom of the tube about an inch into the ground (to keep rodents out) and tighten the zip ties.
- Slide bird net over the top of the tube as far as you can while keeping the top of the net closed.

Tree Tube Maintenance:

- Every spring and fall (and after severe storms) inspect trees and tubes for proper alignment and for broken or missing parts. Pound in loose stakes – repositioning may be necessary.
- After leaf drop in fall, lift tubes off the ground and remove any vegetation or debris inside. (Pull weed roots carefully to avoid damaging tree roots.)
- Although bird nets discourage hornets, they sometimes build nests in tree tubes. Do your fall check after a hard frost to avoid confrontations.
- Periodically mow or otherwise control weeds around the outside of the tube. This will deter rodents and limit wind and snow loading.
- Remove bird nets when trees start growing out of the tops of the tubes.
- Tree tubes will keep protecting trees from deer rubbing long after your trees are established. It's time to remove them when the stem is almost touching the inside of the tube or the tubes are breaking down.
- Our tree tubes are recyclable!