

Tree Planting Technique

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The method and advantages of tree planting with a round-point shovel are illustrated.

Trees are quite often planted with a planting bar. A different method is planting trees with a #2 round-point shovel. This method is good in almost all soil conditions except for extremely rocky areas, areas with a lot of tree roots, or areas of dry clay. However, these areas also make it difficult to use a planting bar.

The advantages of the shovel technique are:

1. It is fast. Up to 2,000 trees have been planted in a 9- to 10-hour day by trained tree planters under good soil conditions. The average person can plant 500 to 750 trees per day in normal soil conditions.

2. A hole made with a shovel is much larger than one made by a planting bar. One problem with the planting bar is that tree roots do not have enough room to spread properly; often they are bent back toward the top of the hole, which can kill the tree. Root spread in a shovel hole is much better, increasing the chances of survival.

3. Planting with a bar requires two holes (one for the tree and one to help compress soil against roots). Using a shovel requires only one hole per tree, thus speeding up tree planting.

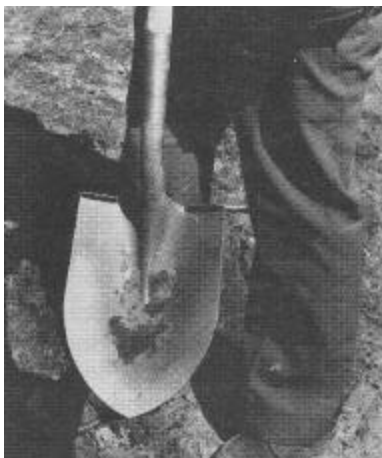


Figure 1.—*The #2 spade can do an excellent job of planting.*



Figure 2.—*Step 1—Turn shovel backwards.*



Figure 3.—*Step 2—Push shovel into ground.*



Figure 4.—*Step 3—Push shovel forward (away from you).*



Figure 5.—*Step 4—Get your tree and pull dirt away from hole with shovel.*



Figure 6.—*Step 5—Put tree in hole, making sure roots spread well.*



Figure 7.—*Step 6—Pull shovel away-most dirt will fall back in hole. Make sure tree is at the proper level (not too deep or too shallow).*



Figure 8.—*Step 7—Pack soil tightly around roots. Use your heel.*



Figure 9.—*Step 8—Tug on tree to make sure it is in the ground tight.*