

“Bumping Up” Your Coastal Roots Seedlings



“Bumping up” is nursery slang for re-planting root bound plants into a larger pot. Small pots often restrict root growth and stunt the growth of our plants. Bumping up your seedlings ensures that your trees will be well-rooted and healthy when planted in a restoration site. Special planting media has been mixed to help seedlings grow during this second year in your school nursery. The media is complete with fertilizer and dolomitic lime and will provide nutrients for the next twelve months of your seedlings’ life. The procedure is simple and fun to do.

A WORD OF CAUTION: The planting media that is provided by the Coastal Roots staff has a slow release fertilizer incorporated into it. If your planting media is stored and accidentally gets wet, fertilizer salts can accumulate and burn the roots of your plants, killing them. **Therefore, store your media in a dry location and use it within a week or two.** After bumping up your seedlings, *deep watering is required* to flush any salts that are present through the bottom of the pot. The following steps will help you successfully transplant your trees into one-gallon containers.

Step 1. Tilt the top of the planting cell containing your seedling upside-down, with your index and middle finger gently squeezing the stem of the plant at the soil level. Gently slide your plant from its planting cell. You may need to gently tug on tree stem near the soil line if necessary. If large roots extend outside the bottom of the planting cell you will need to cut them using scissors or pruners.

Diagram 1.

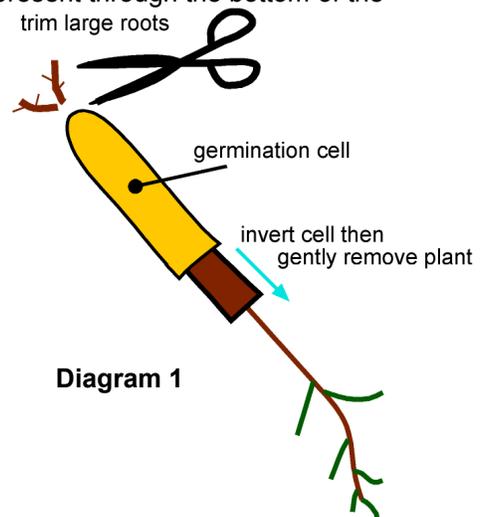


Diagram 1

Step 2. Fill new container with enough planting media (provided) so that the top of the root ball is about ¼ inch below the top of the pot. *Diagram 2A.*

Step 3. Place the transplant into the new pot and fill container with media until the media is even with the top of the root ball. Lightly tap the new container to fill in air spaces and refill to planting level. *Diagram 2B.*

Step 4. Deeply water your newly planted containers within 1 hour to flush harmful salts. This means that you should water the newly planted seedlings until water is running out of the bottom of the containers. Refill containers as necessary with media after the soil settles.

Step 5. Remember to clean and save tree cells for future planting! To clean your planting cells, use a bottle brush to clean off any dirt that is stuck to the inside and outside. Then place all planting cells in a container filled with a weak solution of water and bleach for 1-2 days. This soaking will kill any harmful bacteria or fungi that could cause newly planted seeds to die.

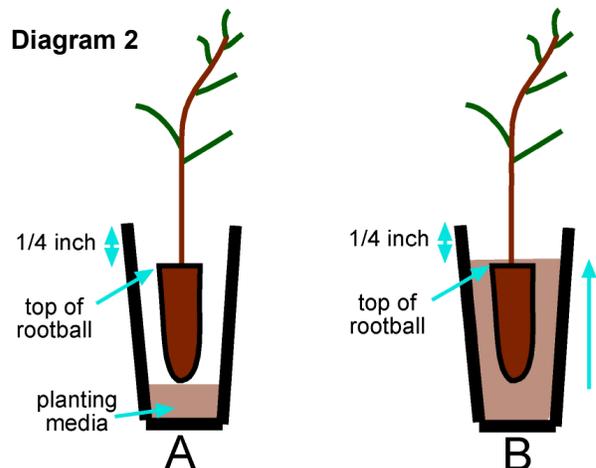


Diagram 2