

## Sierra Club Tree Seedling Give-away, April 2026

**Northern White Cedar** “Arborvitae” (*Thuja occidentalis*): Evergreen; can grow to 40-50 feet tall with a dense pyramidal crown. Can grow in a wide range of soil types and moisture conditions. Small cones. (These are not the narrow columnar cultivars sold in commercial nurseries.) Native range: N.E. US and E. Canada. (Note: *Foliage is a preferred winter deer browse*)



**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*): Evergreen; can grow to be 80-100 feet. Best in rich, moist, well-drained soil that is slightly acidic. Part shade to full sun. It has relatively soft needles and at maturity produces cones 4-8 inches long. If planted in the open, it will develop a more spreading crown. Deep root system. It is a keystone tree species upon which many other plant and animal species depend. Native range: NE US, Upper Midwest, much of Ontario Canada. It's the state tree of Maine and Michigan.



**Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*, “Shadbush”, “Juneberry”): Shrub/small tree typically in a forest understory, but may grow at the wood's edge, or in open areas. Grows to 6-20 feet (sometimes more). In spring before other tree leaves have emerged, it develops showy white flowers before its own leaves appear. May be single-stemmed or multi-stemmed. Small reddish/purple/black fruits are edible to humans/wildlife. Native to most of the E. US.



**Swamp White Oak** (*Quercus bicolor*): Similar to White Oak but tolerant of wet or compacted soils. Will also grow well in well-drained soils. Grows to about 80 feet. Part shade to full sun. If planted in the open, it will develop a more spreading crown. Like other oaks it is a keystone tree species. Native range: upper midwest, southern Great Lakes region, mid-Atlantic.



**Paper Birch** (*Betula papyrifera*): Well-known iconic deciduous tree of northern US and Canada with white papery bark. May be multi- or single stemmed. Medium size tree to 50-70 feet high. Best located in moist, well-drained soil, where full to partial sunshine is available. Avoid excessively hot locations.



## How to Plant a Bare Root Tree

*For best results, plant the trees today or tomorrow. Do not allow the roots to dry out. Otherwise, put them in a clean plastic bag, spray them lightly and gently tie the bag shut with string.*

- Select the spot where you want the tree. Choose a site that's not too shady away from overhead wires, water/sewer lines, and sufficiently distant from other trees and buildings. **Imagine what your tree will look like at full size**, taking into consideration the shade it will create as well as size.
- Carefully separate the trees and untangle the roots so none are broken, and you can spread them away from the plant.
- Dig a hole wide enough so the roots can fit into the hole and spread away from the plant, **without being crowded together**. Also, make the hole deep enough so that after backfilling with soil, the final soil level will be at the place on the stem that is just above all the roots.
- Now pour enough water to cover the bottom of the hole an inch or two and let it seep into the soil. Sift the soil gently into the hole so it can settle around the roots. After there is 4 or 5 inches, pour a cup or two of water in to settle the soil around the roots. Gently press the soil down. Keep doing this until the soil is a bit above the highest roots and level with the ground around it.
- Keep the seedling well-watered, but not so much that it gets soggy.

## Protect Your Tree

- Avoid string-trimming against the bark (Use mulches to reduce weed growth)
- Protect your seedling from deer and rabbits with:
  - A chicken wire fence
  - Tubing (homemade or commercially available)

