



sunriver
nature center
& observatory

WHY PLANT PONDEROSA PINES?

Enduring: Ponderosas are much more resistant to disease, insect infestation, drought, wind damage, and fire than many native trees to Oregon. This majestic evergreen can grow to over 260 feet tall and can live for 500 years.

Versatile: Planting Ponderosas helps restore biodiversity in Sunriver forests, providing habitat for an array of wildlife species. Ponderosa cones are also a favorite food source for squirrels and many birds.

Valuable: Besides being an investment in your property, the neighborhood, and the environment, planting seedlings is a wise financial investment. Ponderosas are a rare, appreciating asset that require little to no maintenance.

SUCCESSFULLY PLANTING A PONDEROSA SEEDLING:

1. Be careful not to let the roots dry out. Plant soon! Store in a cool, shady place, until planted.
2. Select a site in an appropriate location: full to part sun, where it can thrive and grow.
3. Dig a hole about twice the depth and width of the tree's root ball.
4. Fill the hole with water and wait a couple of minutes for absorption.
4. Mix organic matter or compost with native soil for back fill.
5. Adjust the height of the seedling as you back fill the hole, packing soil mixture firmly.
6. To maximize water absorption, build a 'donut' of soil around the perimeter of the hole.
7. Soak thoroughly.
8. Water *deeply* every few weeks (not too often) in the summer and fall for the first year or two.
9. Keep grasses and bitterbrush from encroaching and competing for water and nutrients.
10. Be patient. Ponderosa Pines take several years to establish and grow.

WHAT IS PROJECT PONDEROSA?

This educational and environmental project was founded by local educator, Lee Stevenson, in 2006 to help restore Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) to Sunriver and the Upper Deschutes River ecosystems. Every spring, around Earth Day, over 1,000 bare-root seedlings are potted by the 4th graders of Three Rivers School in Sunriver. The La Pine High School Life Skills class generously donates many hours of labor each year to caring for the plants and the nursery. Project Ponderosa is made possible by the support of Sunriver Water & Environmental, Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory, and many other local partners and community volunteers.



For more information, visit: www.ProjectPonderosa.org or call 541.593.4394