

Unless they have special care, trees can't survive long out of the ground. If planting is delayed for a few days, keep roots and top moist in a protected location away from sun and wind. Cover the roots with damp peat, burlap, wet leaves, waterproof plastic sheets, or moist newspapers.

If replanting is going to be delayed two or three weeks, "heel in" the plants. Choose a shady area away from drying winds. Dig a sloping trench large enough to accommodate the roots. Place the roots in the trench and rest the trunk against the sloping side. Cover roots with loose soil and keep them moist. Evergreens should be heeled in upright and placed close together if there are more than one.

Gently remove the heeled in tree from its temporary trench and plant in a permanent setting as soon as possible.