

Using RTI Planter Paks In Reforestation



Spot Fertilization with RTI Planter Paks enable seedlings to develop fast growing lateral roots. This allows crop trees a better chance of early site domination.

Spot Placement

The purpose of spot fertilizer at planting is to improve early root and shoot growth, so that the seedling quickly captures the site and realizes its full potential. Benefits realized at the time of planting will translate into enhanced growth long after the teabag has been used up. The premeasured 10 gram pouches contain a balanced blend of controlled release fertilizer that will supply extra nutrients to the seedling for two to three years, depending on soil temperatures.

If it is placed too far away, the solution is too weak and the benefits that produce growth will be lost.

Spacing

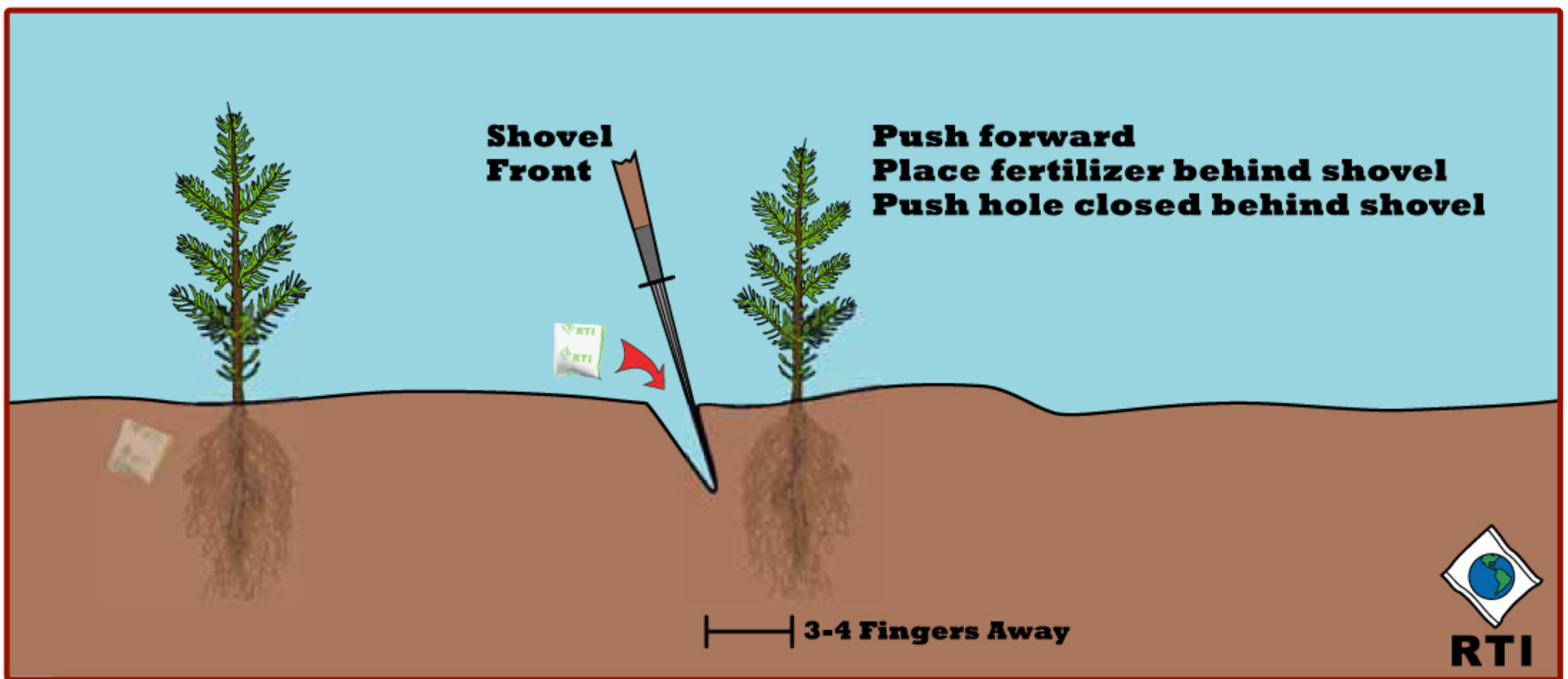
Placement of the Planter Paks is critical to success. Separation of teabag from plug should be three to four fingers in distance. Don't put the teabag into the planting hole - EVER! Place it back from the seedling three fat or four skinny fingers.

Finger Rule: Three or four fingers between the edge of the plug and the teabag is the best position.

Importance of Placement

The nutrients are released from the Planter Pak or teabag in the same manner that tea leaves in a teabag diffuse the liquor into the teapot. If the Planter Pak is placed too close to the seedling, it will supply too potent a brew and can damage the seedling.





Depth

Placement needs to be just under the surface by 2 to 3 cm. Any higher can promote the growth of weeds and any lower reduces the rate of nutrient releases because the soils are cooler.

Incorporating Planter Paks without Significantly Reducing Planting Speed

While the added treatment is likely to cause some slowing in the planting process, these tips will hopefully minimize the issue:

- 1) Place an open plastic bag containing 100 Planter Paks in your tree planting bags. If you are loading more than 100 trees in your bags at a time, put in an extra count polybag.
- 2) Pick up a teabag between your index finger and middle finger. Grab the seedling, place it in the planting slit and make a shallow indent 5 cm uphill from plug with your shovel. It is recommended that you spin the shovel around, press it forward, then bring it back. Next, drop the teabag into the slot and force it down to 3-5 cm with planting shovel. Cover with soil by stepping on it.

Field Handling and Storage of Planter Paks

Boxes should be covered during periods of rain or they can turn into mush. The plastic bags that contain 100 Planter Paks are relatively waterproof and should protect the Paks from exposure. Any product that is not used should be stored in a shed or under cover away from moisture. Heat and cold are not a problem.

Safety Information

MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) are available by contacting Darius Bucher of Integral Forest Management Ltd. (integralfm@telus.net).

Other Safety Information

RTI tests and monitors “Heavy Metal” content in all our products and lab reports are available upon request. A planter health study looking at potential exposure when handling teabag fertilizer has also been conducted jointly by FERIC, Work safe BC, and the Western Silviculture Contractors Association. There is little risk to planters being exposed to the fertilizer in our products if proper, common sense precautions summarized in the report are taken. Copies of the report are available by contacting Darius Bucher of Integral Forest Management Ltd. (integralfm@telus.net).

Feedback

We always welcome feedback regarding the performance of our products. Further questions can be answered by sending an e-mail to Darius Bucher of Integral Forest Management Ltd. (integralfm@telus.net). We would love to hear from you!

