



## Responsible Replanting ....for the Next Urban Forest

We need to replant some of the trees we lost in the Camp Fire. But we should not replant **every** tree we lost. To be fire-safe, the next Paradise forest needs to be **less dense**. And to be climate-resilient, the next forest needs to have the right mix of species at the right elevations.

### ***Whether to plant***

Look closely at your ground. Do you see tiny pine seedlings and oak sprouts? If so, you don't need to replant at all. Natural regeneration is the best!

### ***What to plant***

**If you live below Pearson Rd:** We recommend blue oaks only. (Plant these in the fall)

**Between Pearson and Wagstaff:** Ponderosa pine and incense cedar early spring, plus black oaks in fall

**Between Wagstaff and top of Pentz:** Ponderosa pine, incense cedar, and Douglas fir in spring, but heavy on the ponderosa pine! ...plus black oaks in fall

**Magalia and up:** Ponderosa pine, incense cedar, Douglas fir, and sugar pine in spring, +black oaks in fall

Whatever trees you plant, make sure they're from the correct seed zone (Butte County or nearby) and elevation. If the nursery can't tell you where the tree seed came from, don't buy it! And remember, **bigger is not better** – small seedlings usually have better odds than big potted trees.

### ***Where to plant***

- If dead and dying trees haven't been removed yet, wait until they're gone. Don't worry: BCRCO will also have free seedlings for you in spring 2021.
- **See graphic on other side.** Keep trees well back from power lines (25'), structures (50'), driveways and roads (10'), and other trees (12'-50'). Don't plant a tree inside the drip line of another tree. Conifers grow best in full sun!
- Every structure needs a 100' defensible space zone (Town of Paradise 2019 Defensible Space Ordinance). You *can* plant trees in that zone, but be prepared to aggressively prune them to keep their branches up above the ground. Furthermore, "Tree placement shall be planned to ensure the **mature** canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of [any] structure." – including neighbors' structures. That's why we recommend planting trees 50' away from any structure. Remember, failure to maintain defensible space around your home is a violation of the ordinance and may require removal of trees. Responsible replanting of trees now means you won't have to remove trees later.
- Don't plant over septic tanks or leach fields. And avoid future water line trenches.

Thanks to contributors to this document: Lauren Gill, Town of Paradise; John Mendon, Mendon's Nursery; Glenn Lunak, RPF # 2224; Mike Santuccio, RPF #2553; Dave Derby, Unit Forester, CAL FIRE; Seed Zone Climate Tracker (Joe Stewart and Jim Thorne, UC Davis); CAL FIRE Guide to Planting Seedlings.

## When to plant

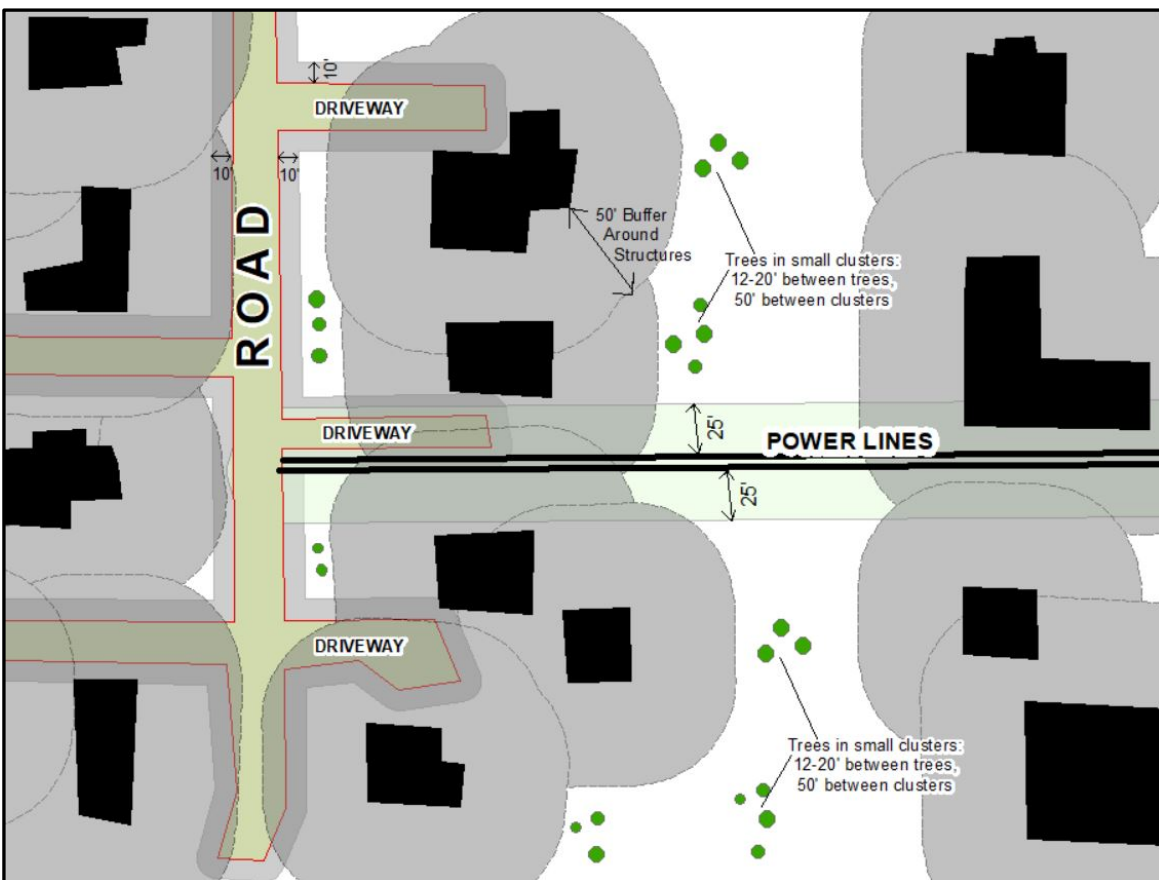
Conifer seedlings are usually planted in early spring (but fall works if you can get them). Oaks and other hardwoods are fall-planted. To get trees, watch Butte County Resource Conservation District Facebook page for giveaways!

## How to plant

- 1.) Remove all competing vegetation within 18". **Grass will kill seedlings.**
- 2.) Dig a hole deep enough so the tree roots won't get bent/curled ("jayed") in the hole.
- 3.) If the soil is not already moist, fill the hole with water and allow to drain out. No need for any type of fertilizer.
- 4.) Next, plant the tree at a perfect depth – no roots exposed, no trunk buried.
- 5.) Gently hold onto the seedling and firm the soil around the roots (air pockets will kill roots).
- 6.) To make the most of future rains: make a shallow, half-moon-shaped water basin about 12" radius out from the seedling (on the **downhill** side if on a slope!).
- 7.) Unless it's raining now, give each tree 2-3 gallons of water. If no sufficient rain next week, water again with another 2-3 gallons per week til good rains. No need to water next year!

## Give Your Home Defensible Space....

## ....And Give Your Trees Room To Grow



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