

Wildlife Habitat Shrubs/Small Trees

Ninebark



Latin name: *Physocarpus opulifolius*

Height: 5 to 8 feet

Width: 4 to 6 feet

Growth Rate: Medium

Site Requirements: Prefers full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil. Will tolerate wide range of soil types, including shallow, rocky soils.

Physical Description:

Deciduous spreading shrub, usually multi-stemmed. Mature branches have reddish, flaking, exfoliated bark that gives the plant a distinct look. Small, pink or white clustered flowers appearing in spring.

Wildlife Value:

Attracts pollinating insects.

Uses:

Can be used for erosion control on stream banks, good for planting in harsh conditions.

Successful Tree Planting Tips

Before You Plant Seedlings

Seedlings will arrive as bare-root, meaning the plants have minimal soil around the roots. Seedlings must be planted within one day of arrival, since they are susceptible to drying, or placed directly into cold storage.

If you are planting in a few days:

- Keep the plants in their delivery bag and place them in a refrigerator cooled to 38–48°F. If not available, keep in a cool area (garage, basement), out of direct sun. Do not stack bags.
- The day before planting day, pull the plants out of the refrigerator and gently untangle the roots.
- Soak the plant roots for 1–2 hours by placing seedlings in a 5-gallon bucket of water to ensure roots won't dry out.

Bareroots are fragile and require cool temperatures and wet conditions. Too much heat can cause mold to grow on seedlings and roots, killing them, so be sure to keep seedlings cool and moist to prevent mold growth.

Maintain Your Seedlings

- Water plants weekly during dry conditions for one year after planting to ensure successful establishment.
- Install tree tubes, tree fencing, and weed mats to help protect your plants from predators such as white-tailed deer and voles. Five-foot tree tubes or fencing is recommended. Tree tubes should only be used on hardwood trees and shrubs.
- Check tree protection materials regularly to make sure tree tubes are upright, weed mats are secured to the ground, and deer fencing does not need repair. For a full list of maintenance activities, please see the Maintenance Guide (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5303.html>).