



King Conservation District



PLANTING LIVE HARDWOOD STAKES

Live hardwood stakes are cuttings taken from the dormant stems of hardwood trees and shrubs. The hardwood stakes commonly used in King County come from red osier dogwood and willow plants. Live stakes are particularly useful on steep slopes or unstable banks where digging a planting hole is difficult or may cause erosion. Follow these steps for successful planting of live stakes.

STEPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PLANTING OF LIVE STAKES

Preparing the live stake for placement

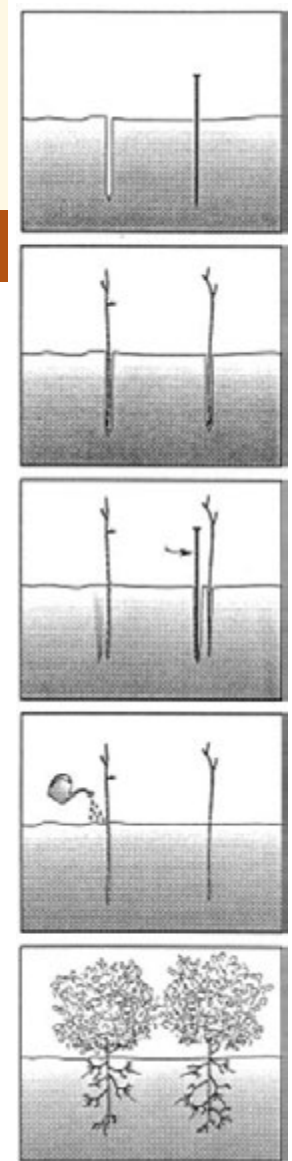
- 1 To determine which end is the top of a stake, look for a bud on the stake. All buds will point toward the top.
- 2 To prepare the stake for placement, cut the basal end at a 45° angle. The top of the stake should be cut square or blunt.



Taken from *Guidelines for Bank Stabilization Projects in the Riverine Environments of King County*. KCSWM, 1993.

Placing the live stake

- 1 If soil is too hard for direct cutting placement, use a planting bar to create a hole. Make hole half the length of the cutting.
- 2 Insert willow cutting to the bottom of hole.
- 3 Re-insert the planting bar adjacent to first hole and move bar toward willow cutting to close hole.
- 4 Water thoroughly.
- 5 Watch your willows grow and flourish.



Taken from *Streamside Planting Guide for Western Washington*. Harza Engineering Company and Cowlitz County Soil and Water Conservation District.