

MYTH

NEWLY PLANTED TREES SHOULD BE STAKED FIRMLY AND SECURELY

THE FACTS

Tree staking is **seldom NECESSARY**, but when trees are staked, they are typically staked **TOO HIGH, TOO TIGHTLY**, and for **TOO LONG**.

- Improperly staked trees grow taller than wider.
- When a tree stake is removed, a lack of trunk and root development makes the tree vulnerable to breakage or blow-down.

Newly planted trees **CAN** require staking if:

- They are bare root;
- The stem bends excessively when not supported;
- The planting site is very windy.

PROPER STAKING TECHNIQUE, IF REQUIRED

- Place stakes as low as possible – no higher than 2/3 the height of the tree;
- Affix tree to stake with a flexible material that allows movement all the way down the ground;
- Remove all staking material after roots are established (as early as a few months).

BUSTED

REFERENCE

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION
<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/staking.pdf>