Jemseg Grand Lake Watershed Association

www.jemseggrandlakewatershed.ca

New Nouveau Brunswick
Your Environmental Trust Fund at Work

May, 2022 Instructions and Questionnaire for planting, care, and reporting results for growing red-tip willows (*Salix eriocephala*) live stakes

Planting instructions

The red-tipped willows that you plant will benefit the local ecosystem and help stabilize your shoreline. Further information is available at our website under PROJECTS > Shoreline Green Zones.

Where it works: In a partial shade location on your shoreline, in a place that has some gravel, sand or soil. The finer material is usually underneath the larger rocks or coarser gravel.

Preparation: If you pick up the live stakes before you are ready to plant them, make sure you keep them dormant by storing in a refrigerator. About 2 to 3 days before planting, cut the bottom end of the live stakes diagonally (see Figure 1). Pruning shears are helpful here. This ensures that fresh live cells are available to absorb water, and that *the buds point up when planting*. Fill the bag with water, reseal it, and place it in a shaded place so the live stakes can absorb water.



Figure 1. Live stake with diagonal cut on the bottom, buds pointing up.

Planting: Take a **shovel or hand tool** and make holes (at least six inches deep) around 60 to 90 cm (2 to 3 feet) apart in a triangular pattern. Place some potting soil and/or well-rotted manure and a small amount of bone meal (if available) in the hole. Plant the stake (***buds pointing up, diagonal cut at the bottom***) with about 2/3 of the stake in the ground. Push down firmly on the soil so the stake is snugly packed in the surrounding soil (roots don't like air pockets). Water each stake well as you plant them. They will sprout roots and leaves as they grow. Please water your willows and provide general care to give them a good chance of getting established. **Watering in dry weather is the most important factor for success**. The willows can be planted directly and do not require any "hardening off".

Planting rooted cuttings with potting soil and a small scoop of bone meal in 2021.





A group of red-tip willow rooted cuttings planted in a triangular pattern in 2021.

After planting: Place a stake with a painted top near your planted red-tip willows, and mark the date they were planted on the painted stake. This helps significantly in identifying where your red-tip willows are in follow-up visits to track their progress, especially if planted in multiple locations.

Please turn over

Questionnaire

1. Planting location, name and address:

2. Date planting material received:

3. Number of plants (live stakes or rooted cuttings) received:

4. Date(s) planted:

5. Description of soil where willows were planted: e.g. gravel, clay, rocky, sandy, silty, peaty

6. Did you use potting soil or other materials (e.g. manure, bone meal) when planting the willows? If so, approximately how much for each plant was used?

7. How often did you water the willows? Willows love water. In dry weather, regular watering is important as the plants take root.

8. How many of the willows survived until October 15, 2022?

9. How many of the willow plants survived the 2023 spring freshet? How many are still alive as of May 31, 2023?

10. If possible, please send some dated pictures showing your planting process, type of soil (see 6. above), and progress through the growing season. Please send dated pictures, with your **location and name**, to jemseggrandlakewatershed@gmail.com

Your feedback will really help us share best practices and learned knowledge with others on greening our shorelines.