

When, Where, and Why You Should Use Tree Shelters

- Tree shelters protect young seedling from browsing by deer, rabbits, mice and other animals. Bird nets are included to keep birds from falling down the tubes.
- Tree shelters create a mini 'greenhouse' by trapping moisture, elevating the temperature, and protecting the seedling from the drying action of the wind
- Tree shelters extend the young trees growing season by several weeks
- Tree shelters don't need to be taken off...EVER! They provide the new tree with some wind support once it comes out the top of the tube
- Tree shelters are used ONLY FOR HARDWOOD seedlings such as oak, cherry, maple, and a variety of other deciduous trees. Conifers need to spread out and they can't do that inside a tube (use fencing instead).
- Tree shelters prevent young trees from being 'rubbed' by male deer

There are only a few drawbacks to using tree shelters that you should be aware of:

- Tree shelters can't be used where there is shade. Trees don't respond as well inside the tube when they are shaded. Some people like to use PVC pipe instead of shelters. Unfortunately, it shades the tree too much, elevates the temperature too high, and the sharp edges cut the seedling off when it emerges.
- Tree shelters sometimes extend the growing season too long. Frost damage can occur. By raising the tube a few inches you can equalize the temperature and get new seedlings to 'harden off' before winter.
- Tree shelters can be expensive. A 5-foot shelter with stake can cost between \$3.50 and \$5.00
- Tree shelters require maintenance. You must go out every year and make sure that the stakes are well seated in the ground and straight. Bird nets must be removed before the tree emerges from the tube.

Contact your local Service Forester (814) 332-6875 or the Crawford Conservation District (814) 724-1793 for more information on the advantages and usage of tree shelters.