

Volunteer Instructions – Hemlock Restoration on Trout Streams

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING to participate in this project to plant hemlock saplings to restore the shade canopy along the trout stream. The planting involves use of a special amendment mix to enhance the soil structure and nutritional content, a moisture retention product to help drought-proof the little trees, and a special initial watering mix containing root stimulator and 5-year protection from the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

1. **Collect your supplies:** tub of soil mix, shovel, mattock, bucket and clean jug per team; pair of work gloves per person; trees; and baggie of soil additives, small cup of Soil Moist, and gallon of initial watering mix per tree.
2. **Dig a hole** 3 times the width of the container (i.e., so you could place the pot in the hole 3 times in a triangle) but only 2” deeper than the dirt in the container. Pile the removed dirt next to the hole.
3. **Combine 1/2 bucket of soil amendment with the native soil** you removed from the hole plus the contents of the baggie containing fertilizer and ironite. Do this mixing *next to* (not in) the hole. Put 2 – 3 inches of this soil mix back into the hole.
4. **Remove the tree from the container** carefully and tickle the root hairs so they’re facing outwards. If the roots are pot-bound, use a sharp tool to make several half-inch-deep scrapes all around the root mass to free them. Place the tree in the center of the hole, and be sure it’s sitting a couple inches above grade.
5. **Refill the hole halfway** with your soil mix. Then **sprinkle contents of soil additives baggies** all around roots of the tree but *not* on top of root ball.
6. **Fill the hole the rest of the way** with your soil mix so that it just covers the root ball. Firm the dirt with your foot to eliminate air pockets. The tree should now be sitting exactly at grade, level with the surrounding ground.
Note: Don’t create a “watering saucer” around the tree unless it’s on a steep hill; if this is the case, the watering saucer should be smoothed out after the first year.
7. **Apply 2-3 inches of shredded hardwood mulch** from the trunk out to the drip line, pulling the mulch back couple of inches so it’s not actually touching the trunk. This is to maintain stable soil moisture and temperature.
8. Immediately after planting, **water thoroughly** but slowly right at the base of the tree, using 1 gallon of initial watering mix. Two or three hours later, firm the dirt again with your foot to eliminate any remaining air pockets and **water again with plain water**.



Save Georgia's Hemlocks, Inc.
Hemlock Help LineSM 706-429-8010
www.SaveGeorgiasHemlocks.org

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