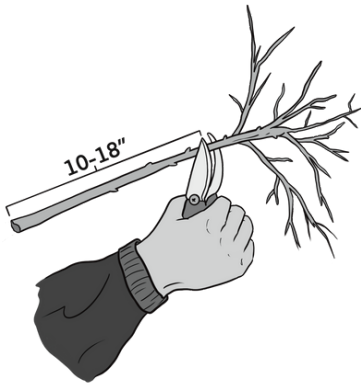


Live Staking

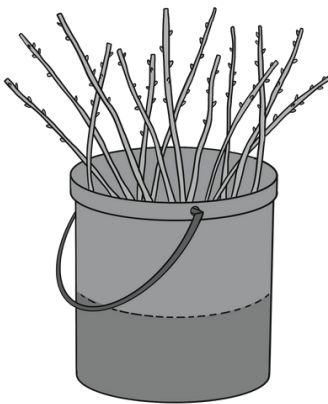
Live staking is a low-cost, easy way to establish woody shrubs onto your property by cutting stems from established trees and inserting them directly into the ground.

Cutting Stakes



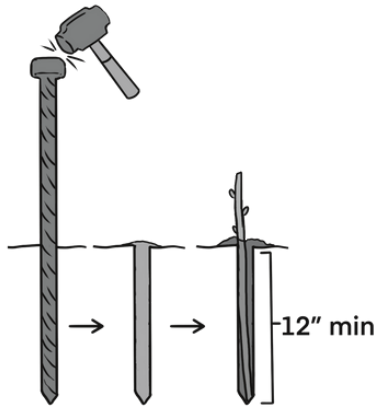
- Minimum diameter: width of your finger, any smaller and the stem will dry out
- Maximum diameter: ~1.5 inch, any bigger and it becomes hard to plant
- Harvest when dormant: after the leaves have dropped in Fall and before buds break in spring
- Cut off as many branches as needed, willows are hardy and will grow back
- When cutting multiple stakes from one stem, cutting the inserted end at 45 degrees and the outside end at 90 degrees helps identify which end goes where

Prepping Stakes



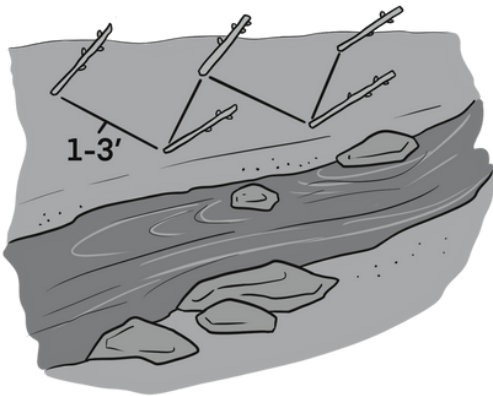
- Trim off all branches (tarp and hand pruners helpful)
- Bundle stakes together and soak (bucket or creek), dispose of trimmed branches
- Soak for a minimum of 1 week

Planting



- Tools needed: rebar, hammer, tarp, bucket, hand pruners
- Best areas to plant: not too wet, not too dry
- Keep stakes moist while planting, don't let them dry out
- Dig hole, make it muddy, fill in mud around stake, ideally at least 12 inches will be in the soil
- Leave a minimum 2-3 nodes above the ground for leaves to sprout from
- You can get multiple stakes out of one branch, it can be tall or short as you'd like

Maintenance



- We recommend planting your stakes taller and further apart: it's easier to see and less likely to get overgrown and shaded out
- Let stakes be
- Helpful to weed in fall to reduce vole damage
- Can mow/weed whack between the stakes for the first few years to reduce competition and help with establishment

Other species that can be used for live staking

- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)
- Eastern Cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*)
- Dogwoods (*Cornus spp.*)
- Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)
- Alders (*Alnus spp.*)
- Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

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